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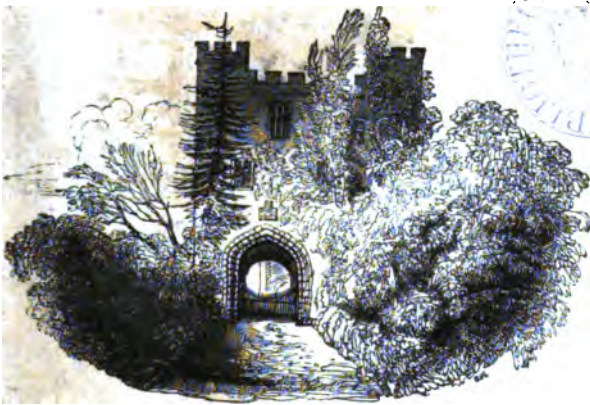
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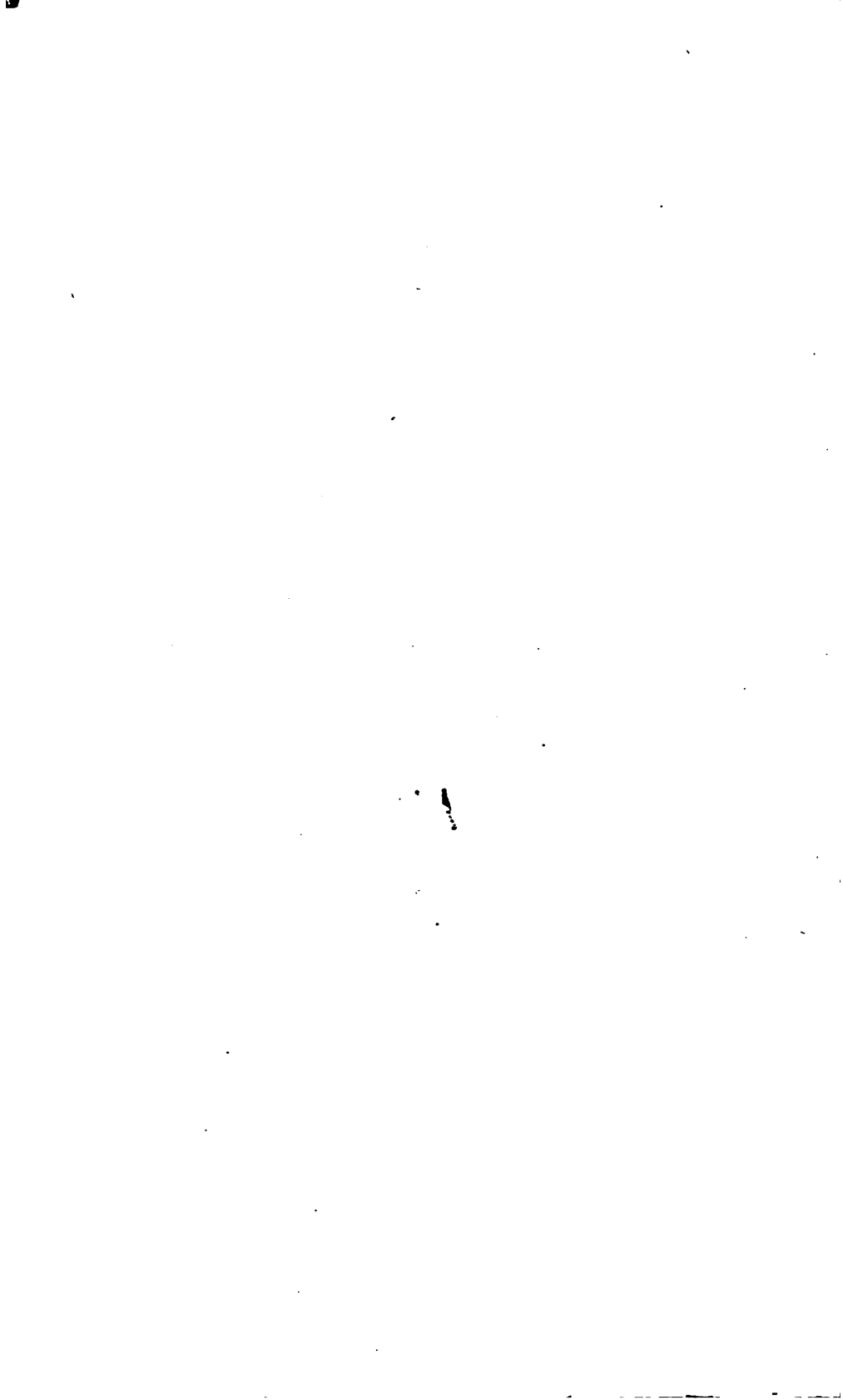
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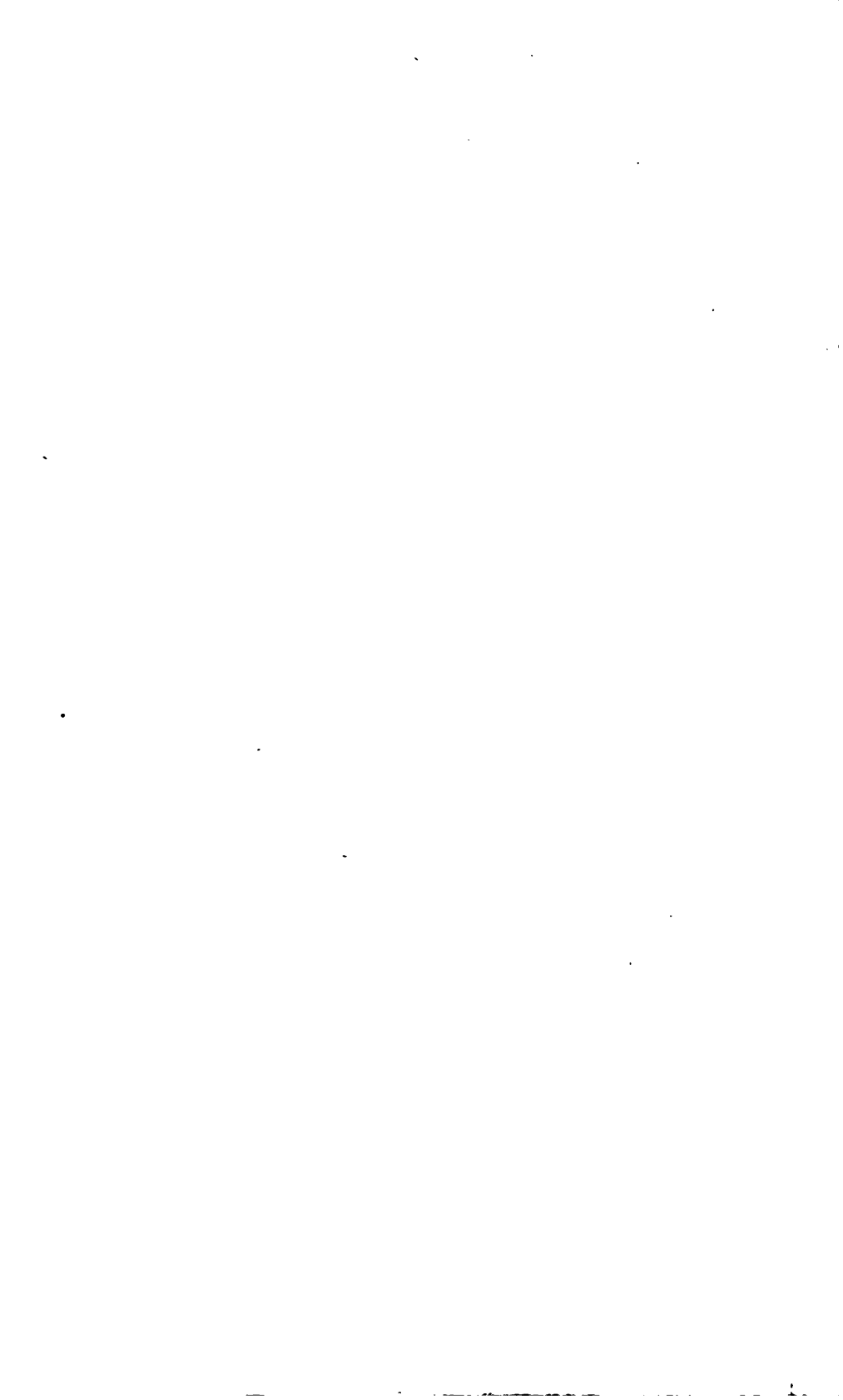
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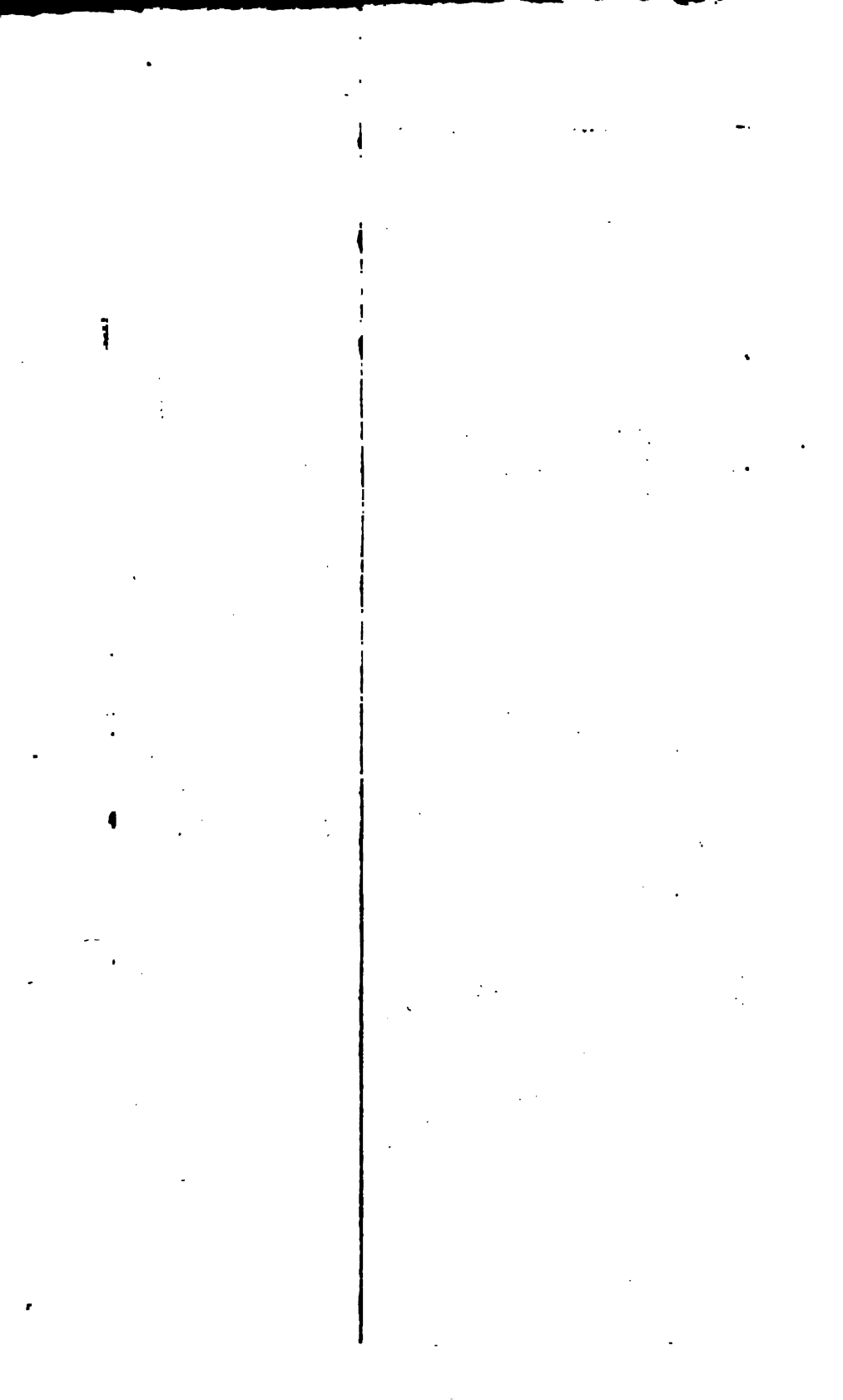
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CORRECTIONS AND ALTERATIONS.

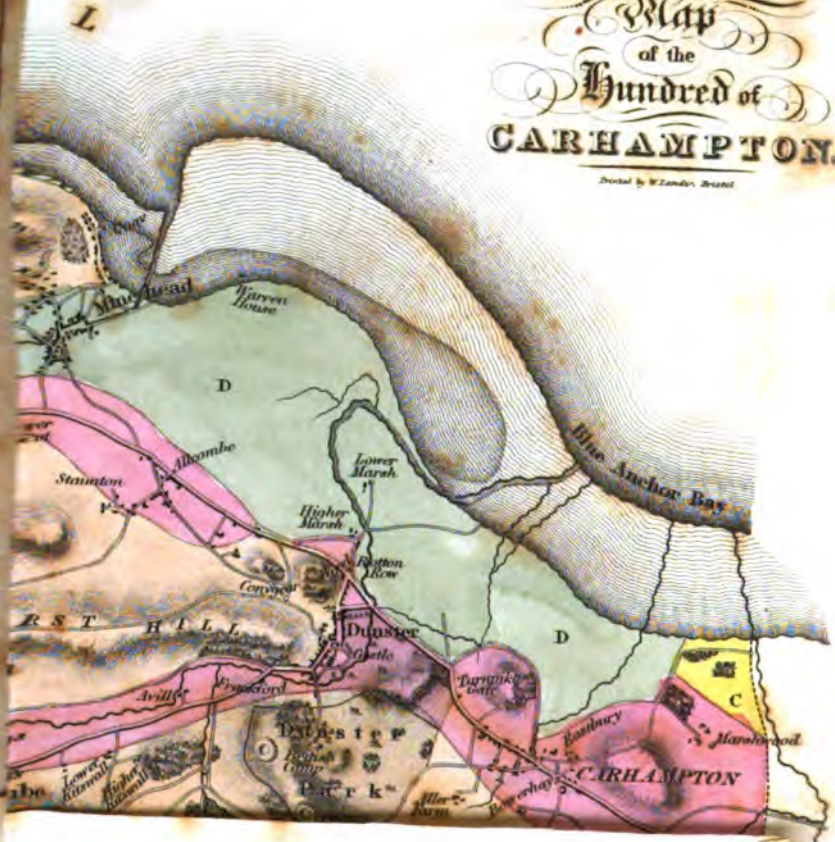
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- 12, line 8, dele *the* before *factitious*.
75, note, for *Culbone* read *Porlock*.
84, line 16, after *built* add *either*.
111, See more relating to *Crosces*, under Dunster, pages 418, 419.
126, line 5, Lysons (*History of Devon*) calls this Thomas *Peyner*, Thomas *Peyvre*.
161, line 9, Sir Nicholas *Slaming*, should be Sir Nicholas *Slanning*.
264, line 20, after *imaginary*, add *portraits of*.
169, the Quarry of new red Sandstone, mentioned as being at the village of Horner, is at West Luccombe.
7, line 3 from the bottom, for *for a particular*, read *from a particular*.
208, line 3 from the bottom, for *Short-house*, read *Stcart-house*.
208, last line, dele *which*.
209, line 13, for *farms*, read *farmers*.



A GEOLOGICAL
Map
of the
Hundred of
CARHAMPTON.

Drawn by W. Lander, Bristol



INTRODUCTION.

“ Histories of Counties, if properly written, become works of entertainment, of importance, and universality. They may be made the vehicles of much general intelligence, and of such as is interesting to every reader of a liberal curiosity. What is local is often national.”

REV. T. WARTON.

THERE is a natural curiosity in the mind of man to become acquainted with the history of the neighbourhood in which he first drew his breath or has fixed his residence; and if any particular place should have been rendered memorable by vestiges of antiquity, or the remains of ancient magnificence, his curiosity is excited in a still higher degree. But in proportion to the distance of time in which those remains existed in a perfect state, the paucity of writers, and the want of authentic documents, increase the difficulty of obtaining information, and too often after extensive reading and laborious research, the mind of the inquirer is thrown into the wide regions of conjecture and uncertainty.

The general and increasing interest which the public take in literary works that have for their object the illustration of the antiquities and topography of the kingdom, is sufficiently apparent from the great increase of books of this description. Little has, however, been done in the county of Somerset, since the publication of Mr. Collinson's History in 1791, if we except the Rev. R. Warner's History of Bath, the same author's History of Glastonbury, and the new edition of the History of Taunton.

The great mass of materials brought forward by the Commissioners of Records, during the last twenty-five years, has thrown so much new light on the ancient state and succession of property in this county, that every topographical historian is bound to express his most grateful acknowledgments to those honourable persons for the zeal, industry, and research, which have been displayed in the numerous volumes on the Records of the Realm that have been given to the public under their auspices. To mention the "Hundred Rolls," the Placita de Quo Warranto," the "Testa de Nevill," the "Calendars to the Inquisitiones post mortem," and the "Patent and Charter Rolls," the "Parliamentary Writs" and "Writs of Military Summons," is enough to shew the nature of such an immense collection of information as is here developed to the curious inquirer into our provincial history.

DOMESDAY BOOK.

(THE EXCHEQUER DOMESDAY.)

The foundation of every English topographical work must rest upon that venerable record *DOMESDAY BOOK*. This survey of England was undertaken by William the Conqueror; and from a memorial of its completion, inserted at the end of the second volume, it is evident that it was finished in the year 1086, the twentieth of the Conqueror's reign.

The order generally observed in compiling the Survey, was to set down, in the first place, at the head of every county, except Chester and Rutland, the king's name, *Rex Willelmus*, and next those of the bishops, religious houses, and churches; then follow the earls and barons, according to their rank, and after them the king's thanes, ministers, or officers; and lastly, those who held lands under him by serjeanty.

In some counties the cities and capital boroughs are taken notice of, before the list of tenants *in capite* is entered, with the particular laws or customs of each; and in others they are inserted promiscuously. This is a very valuable part of *Domesday*, and fully confirms to us that William the Conqueror made but little alteration in the ancient customs which prevailed in the time of Edward the Confessor.

After the list of the tenants *in capite*, the manors and possessions themselves, which belonged to the king, are entered, and also those of each owner, whether

they lie in the same or in different hundreds, are collected, and minutely described, with the names of the sub-in-feudatories, or under-tenants.

In the account of Somersetshire, the possessions of the king are entered first. The manors which had belonged to Edward the Confessor, and his Queen Edith, with those of Harold, (who is never mentioned in Domesday as king, but always as Earl Harold, *Comes Heraldus*) Godwin his son, *Godwinus filius Heraldi*, and a few others, are put down as belonging to King William. Among these are the manors of Somerton and Langport, Cheddar and Axbridge, North-Petherton, South-Petherton, Curry [Rivel] Williton, Carhampton and Cannington, Bedminster, Frome, Brewton, Milborne Port and Ilchester.

The preceding fifteen manors appear to have been the ancient demesne towns of the Anglo-Saxon kings. History traces some of them to the possession of Ina, king of the West Saxons; others to the great Alfred; and others to Athelstan. All of them had been exempt for this reason from the tax called *Dane Geld*, because if they had been assessed, it would only have been paying with the one hand what would have been received with the other. The arable lands of these manors were therefore never hidated, and the Survey constantly expresses that it is not known what number of hides were contained in them. Five of the preceding towns are mentioned in the Survey as boroughs, namely, Langport, Axbridge, Milborne-

Port, Ilchester, and Brewton; all of which, except Brewton, afterward sent members to parliament.

The description of the several towns and manors is entered in the following manner:—

1. The owner at the time of the survey.
 2. The owner in the reign of Edward the Confessor.
 3. Number of hides for which it was assessed to the Dane geld.
 4. Quantities of arable land, estimated by the number of ploughs that could cultivate it.
 5. Number of villani, cotarii, bordarii.
 6. Number of servi, bondmen, or slaves.
 7. Quantity of meadow, pasture, and woodland.
 8. Mills, and their value.
 9. Value of the manors in the time of King Edward, and again at the time of making the survey.
 10. Particular customs (if any) belonging to each manor; as mints, markets, fisheries, vineyards, customary services, and rents; these particulars occurring only occasionally, and not under every manor.
-

THE EXETER DOMESDAY.

The Exeter Domesday uniformly supplies us with additional knowledge to that contained in the Exchequer Survey. The former contains an enumeration of the live stock upon every manor in the four western counties, such as the number of horses, oxen, sheep,

pigs, and goats, exactly in the same manner as it is given in the second volume of the Exchequer Domesday. From this enumeration, we cannot fail to perceive the small number of horses then kept in this kingdom, and to notice the great number of goats which are found in nearly every manor. The business of agriculture was chiefly performed by oxen.

TENURES.

On the introduction of the feudal system, or of tenures by military service, immediately after the completion of the general survey, "it became a fundamental maxim and necessary principle of our English tenures, that the king is the universal lord and proprietor of ALL the lands in his kingdom; and that no man doth, or can, possess any part of them but what has mediately, or immediately, been derived as a gift from him, to be held upon certain services."¹

And this concession on the part of the subject was necessary at that time, as a foundation of the polity then set on foot for the establishment of a *military system* for the defence of the realm. In this sense, therefore, and with reference to the king, as *seigneur*, or lord paramount, the whole English territory was then, and is now, *the land of the king*. But the term *TERRA REGIS*, as used in Domesday, is to be understood as denoting the king's own particular

¹ Blackstone's Commentaries, b. ii. c. 4.

estate, as distinguished from the estates of those who held their lands under him—that of which he was the sole, individual, ultimate proprietor—having what Spelman calls *FUNDI PROPRIETATEM*, the *LORDSHIP* over the whole, whether occupied by himself, as was usually the case in part; or granted out in fee, under rents and services, certain, and reserved thereupon; or let out to tenants in such manner as to be still resumable, according to the terms of the demise. And this is what, at this day, we call *ANCIENT DEMESNE OF THE CROWN*. And such of the tenants hereof as held in villanage, or privileged villanage, that is by villan [or non-military] services, but those *determinate* and *certain*, were called “socmen in ancient demesne,” whose proper representatives are the customary copyholders of the present time.²

TENURE IN VILLANAGE.

VILLANI.

Sir William Blackstone, in his Commentary on Tenure in Villanage, has so confounded the *villani* with the *servi*, and the *servi* with the *villani*, that his readers are puzzled with his definition of villans regardant and villans in gross. The truth is, there were no such classes as Sir William has mentioned, for the Survey distinctly notices only *villani*, *cotmanni* or

² Manning's History of Surrey, vol. i. p. 9. note.

cotarii, and *bordarii*, all of them appearing to be several degrees of tenants in villanage, and distinguished from each other by the *quantum* of their services. These are his villans regardant. His villans in gross were the *servi* of the Survey, the proper slaves of the Anglo-Saxons, and so continued by their conquerors the Normans; but the *servi* never held lands in villanage.

The tenants in villanage were generally employed in agricultural affairs, in the cultivation of the land, and the breeding and rearing of cattle. When Sir William Blackstone asserts that they had no property, he is evidently alluding to the *servi*, who being absolutely slaves, certainly could acquire no property either in lands or goods. The agricultural services of the villani were called "base," because under the feudal system, every service which was not military, was considered as vile and dishonourable. The Normans introduced the word "*pagan*," meaning a rustic, a peasant, a non-military man, and we find a celebrated baronial family taking the surname of Pagan or Paine, Fitz-paine, because the progenitor of this family did not originally hold his lands by military service. The amazing increase of the military order introduced the necessity of a correlative term, and all the people who were not enlisted in the service of the prince, were branded with the contemptuous epithets of *pagan* and *villan*.

In Domesday Book every manor is described as having so many villans belonging to it, but the par-

ticular services performed by that class of persons are not mentioned. We must, therefore, look to other authorities to enable us to obtain a knowledge of what those services consisted. In the year 1183, just one hundred years after the compilation of the Conqueror's Survey, Hugh Pudsey, bishop of Durham, ordered a similar survey to be made of the manors belonging to that bishoprick, which was entered in a book, called "The Boldon Book," so named from its giving a particular account of the services performed in the manor of Boldon. A few extracts from this book will serve to shew what those services were which were denominated *villan services*, and which were reserved by the lord, and performed by the tenants in villanage holding of the bishop of Durham.

"In BOLDON the villans were under severe services, for besides various kinds of labour to be performed for the lord in the field, they rendered many payments at the bishop's exchequer, and sixteen-pence each for aver-pennies. The villans laboured three days in each week throughout the year, excepting the weeks of Easter and Whitsuntide, and thirteen days at Christmas. They were privileged at the fairs of St. Cuthbert, to set up one booth or hut for every two villans, of whom there were twenty-two in Boldon."

"In LANCHESTER, the villans were bound to mow the lord's meadows, and to win and lead his hay. When they mowed they were to have from the lord

their mess, called a *corody*; they were to drive the lord's hogs from the forest after the mast and pannage seasons, on which latter duty each received a loaf of bread."

"In GREENCROFT, the villans were to carry the bishop's wine with four oxen."

"In WICKHAM, the bishop had thirty-five villan tenants, each of whom held an oxgang of land, containing fifteen acres, at sixteen pence rent, exclusive of services. Every villan wrought for the lord three days in each week in the year, besides the labour of harvest and ploughing. They were bound to erect a cottage forty feet long and fifteen feet wide, every year, and to carry and fetch from Durham and Bedlington the bishop's baggage, &c. when required, with the allowance of a *corody* whilst they worked. They also provided a milch cow for the lord, and for every oxgang of land they found a hen and ten eggs, and served in the lord's fishery in the river Tyne."

"In WASHINGTON, the villans were to prepare in tillage for seed four portions of land, each portion with twenty-six men, and it was specified that the service theretofore performed at Washington they were to do at Gateshead. They were also to carry a tun of wine and millstones to Durham."³

³ Hutchinson's *Hist. of Durham*, vol. ii. p. 491.

In Gurdon's *Treatise on the Court Leet*,⁴ it is mentioned, that the tenants of the manors of Thurgarton and Horspole, in the county of Nottingham, who held in villanage, were each of them at Christmas to bring a cock and hen to the priory at Thurgarton; and every villan tenant was to give a half-penny towards clearing the mill-dam there, and was to plough three days, and to reap every other day in harvest.

By the Welsh laws there were three sciences which a villan could not teach his son without the consent of his lord; scholarship, bardism, and smithcraft. But if the lord allowed him to study any one of these sciences for a certain time, he was by that means made free, and could no longer be ranked with the villans.

Smithcraft was one of the liberal sciences: the term had a more comprehensive sense than we give it at this time; and the artist must have united in his own mind different branches of knowledge, which are now practised separately, such as raising the ore, and converting it into metal.⁵

COTARII—COTMANNI—COSCETS.

This class of tenants in villanage is called by many names in the Survey, as in Somersetshire, *cotarii* and *coscez*, and in other counties *cotmanni*, *coscets*, *coxets*,

⁴ p. 583.

⁵ Bingley's *Tours in Wales*, vol. ii. p. 210.—*Cambrian Regist.* vol. ii. p. 351.

and *coxez*. In Yorkshire "sixteen *coteri*" occur at Tateshale, and in Shropshire we have "nine *feminæ cotar*." In one passage in the Survey^d there is mentioned distinctly "13 *coscez* et 2 *cotar*," which leads to the supposition that there might have been some difference in their tenure or services.

The *cotarii*, or by whatever name this class may have been called, were apparently cottagers, who held a small portion of land, and paid a firm or rent to the lord, in provisions or money, with some customary service. The Boldon Book will show us what were the services of the *cotmanni* in the manors belonging to the bishop of Durham.

"In Boldon there were twelve *cotmanni*, each of whom held twelve acres of land, and wrought throughout the year two days in the week, except a week at Easter and another at Whitsuntide, and thirteen days in Christmas; and they rendered twelve hens and sixty eggs."

"In Houghton-le-Spring there were thirteen *cotmanni*, each of whom held twelve acres of land, and wrought for the lord two days in each week throughout the year; and four days at harvest, with all their family, except the housewife, and each rendered one hen and five eggs."

"There were also three half-cottagers, (*dimidii cotmanni*) who held six acres each, and wrought two days in each week, from Pentecost to Martinmas."

It will be recollected that the villans in the bishop's manors held each thirty acres of land, and wrought three days in every week throughout the year.

BORDARII.

The *bordarii* of the Survey appear at various times to have received a great variety of interpretations.

Lord Coke calls them "boors holding a little house with some land of husbandry, bigger than a cottage."

Some⁷ have considered them as cottagers, taking their name from living on the *borders* of a village or manor.

Bishop Kennet says, "the *bordarii* were distinct from the *servi* and *villani*, and seem to be those of a less servile condition, who had a bord or cottage with a small parcel of land allowed to them, on condition they should supply the lord with poultry and eggs, and other small provisions for his board and entertainment."

Blomefield, in his History of Norfolk, gives the same interpretation as Bishop Kennet.

Brady says "they were drudges, and performed vile services which were reserved by the lord upon a poor little house, and a small parcel of land, and might, perhaps, be domestic works, such as grinding, threshing, drawing water, cutting wood," &c.

⁷ Nichols's *Leicestersh.* Introd. p. xlv.

These are the *opinions* of eminent writers on the services and tenure of the *bordarii*; I will now turn to the Survey itself, for the purpose of examining how far they are correct.

The *bordarii* appear to have been tenants in villanage, but in a lower degree than either the *villani* or *cotarii*. In the Survey⁸ it is said that on the demesne appertaining to the castle of Ewyas, there were twelve *bordarii* “operantes una die ebdomad.,” that is, “*they wrought one day in every week.*” I believe this is the only instance in Domesday where the particular service of the *bordarii* is mentioned. Their condition was probably different on different manors, but it would seem that they were cottagers merely.

In some entries in the Survey we have “*bordarii arantes.*” At Evesham, on the abbey demesne, it is said, “27 *bordarii* servientes curiæ.” At Edmundsbury, in Suffolk, the abbot had “118 homines et sub eis 52 *bord.* a quibus abb. potest habere aliquid adjutorii.”

In the Ely manuscript we find *bordarii* where the breviate of the same entry in Domesday itself reads *cotarii*. In a charter of King Edgar, printed in the Monasticon,⁹ we read “quinque videlicet mansas cum 15 carucis terræ, cum 18 servis, et 16 villanis, et 10 *bordis*, cum 60 acris prati.”

With respect to the *bordarii* taking their name from living on the borders of a manor, this is sufficiently

⁸ Vol. i. fo. 175.

⁹ Vol. i. p. 37.

refuted by Domesday itself, where we find them not only mentioned generally among the agricultural occupiers of land, but in one instance as “circa aulam manentes,” dwelling near the manor house, and even residing in some of the larger towns. In two quarters of the town of Huntingdon, at the time of writing the Survey, as well as in King Edward’s time, were 116 burgesses, “et sub eis,” it is said, “sunt 100 *bordarii* qui adjuvant eos ad persolutionem geldī.” In Norwich there were no less than 480 *bordarii*, “qui ppt. pauperiē nullā reddūt consuetudinem.” And of 20 *bordarii* in Thetford it is said, “De supradictis *bord.* habet rex scotum de suo capite tantum.”

From what has here been said of the *villani*, *cotarii*, and *bordarii*, it is apparent that they formed three degrees of tenants in villanage, and that their services were agricultural, which was the reason why this tenure was accounted by those who held by military or knight’s service, as base, vile, and dishonourable.

The *villani*, it appears, held a larger portion of land than the *cotarii*, and worked for the lord three days in the week throughout the year; the *cotarii* held a smaller portion of land, and worked two days in the week throughout the year; and the *bordarii* one day in the week.

The agricultural labours and services of these three degrees of tenants in villanage were equivalent to the rent of the land which they occupied. Afterward

these labours and services were commuted into a money payment, and in the accounts of the officers of the several manors is entered as "works." The next alteration was the abrogation of these agricultural labours and services in the nature of rent, and a payment was then made of the produce of the land, or rent in kind, which is not yet wholly done away with; and lastly, the landlords, as gold and silver became more plentiful, let their lands to their tenants and farmers for a stipulated annual money rent or payment.

SERVI—SLAVES—SLAVERY.

There existed in England, at the Norman Conquest, no *free hands*, or freemen who worked for wages; the scanty labour of those warlike and unindustrious times being wholly performed by the two classes of persons called in Domesday Book villans, *villani*, and slaves, *servi*. The latter, who were very numerous, formed an object of foreign trade for ages after the arrival of the Conqueror, who only prohibited the sale of them to infidels.¹⁰

In Domesday Book the *servi*, slaves, and *villani*, are all along distinguished from each other. We learn from Nichols¹¹ and Morant,¹² that the *servi* might be

¹⁰ Henry's Hist. of Great Britain, vol. i. p. 479.—Chalmers' Domestic Econ. of Great Britain, p. 20.

¹¹ Hist. of Leicester, vol. i. p. xliij.

¹² Hist. of Essex, p. 27.

the pure villans in gross, who without any determinate tenure in land, were, at the arbitrary pleasure of their lords, appointed to servile works, and received their maintenance of the lord. Willis¹³ says that the *servi* were predial servants, who performed such services and works as their lords required, and had nothing but what they gained by the good-will of their lords, who fed and kept them. The female slaves are called in Domesday Book *ancillæ*, and appear to have been women servants, under circumstances nearly similar with the *servi*, or male slaves.

The Anglo-Saxons kept a great number of individuals in a state of slavery, and their humane treatment was provided for in the laws made by the Saxon monarchs. A law of King Ina's^{*} appears to have been intended as a mild and equitable provision for the ease and comfort of the slaves, that they might not be worn out by unceasing labour; by this law it was ordained, that if a servant by his master's command should work on Sunday, he should be made free. This was one favourable step gained by that unhappy race of men, through the mild and benevolent precepts of Christianity, which had then gained some ground in the kingdom of the West-Saxons.

The Anglo-Saxons were also great dealers in slaves, and carried on that inhuman traffic on a large scale. The Northumbrians in particular were famous for their

¹³ History of Buckingham, p. 360.

exportation of slaves, and this continued amongst them, according to William of Malmsbury,¹⁴ for some time after the Conquest.

The people of Bristol were much employed in the trade of slaves, which they pursued with great eagerness. The description of the Bristol slave-market as given in the life of St. Wulfstan, bishop of Worcester,¹⁵ who filled that see at the time of the Conquest, and died in 1095, is an exact picture of the negro commerce as carried on in the West Indies, previous to the abolition of that nefarious traffic.

“There is a town called Brickstow (Bristol) opposite to Ireland, and extremely convenient for trading with that country. Wulfstan induced them to drop a barbarous custom which neither the love of God nor the king could prevail on them to lay aside. This was the mart for slaves, collected from all parts of England, and particularly young women, whom they took care to put into such a state as to enhance their value. It was a most moving sight to see in the public market, rows of young persons of both sexes, tied together with ropes; of great beauty, and in the flower of their youth, daily prostituted, daily sold. Execrable fact! wretched disgrace! men unmindful even of the affections of the brute creation! delivering into slavery their relations, and even their very offspring.”

Chester, it appears, was one of the places from

¹⁴ Script. post Bedam, p. 17.

¹⁵ Anglia Sacra, vol. ii. p. 258.

which slaves were exported in the time of the Saxons. Its vicinity to Wales, and the frequent wars carried on with the Welch, furnished a constant supply; but if that were wanting, their neighbours of the Northumbrian kingdom were ready to dispose of their nearest relations.¹⁶

There seems to have been a mart for slaves at Lewes, in Sussex; for in Domesday Book it is said that in that borough, fourpence was to be paid to the portreeve for every man sold there.

This unhappy race of men seems to have been longer perpetuated on the estates of the monasteries than elsewhere, for the monks were forbidden by an ancient canon to manumit their slaves. In the Survey of Glastonbury Abbey, taken after the dissolution, there is mention of "two hundred and seventy-one bondmen, whose bodies and goods were at the king's highness's pleasure." In this county slavery subsisted so late as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. There is a commission still extant issued by her in 1574, for inquiring into the lands and goods of all her bondmen and bondwomen in the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, and Gloucester, in order to compound with them for their manumission or freedom, that they might enjoy their own lands and goods as freemen.¹⁷

We have the authority of Bracton for asserting,

¹⁶ Pennant's *Tours in Wales*, vol. i. p. 174.

¹⁷ Lord Kames's *Sketches of Man*, vol. i. p. 300, note.

"The slaves," says Mr. Chalmers, (*Domestic Econ. of Gr. Brit.* p. 20.)

that however unhappy the condition of the *servi* of those times was in other respects, yet their lives and limbs were under the protection of the laws; so that if the lord killed his bondman or slave, he was subject to the same punishment as if he had killed any other person.¹⁸

In concluding this volume, it only remains for me to acknowledge my obligations to those gentlemen who have obligingly communicated information upon various subjects connected with the History of the Hundred of Carhampton.

From the resident clergy of the respective parishes I have received every facility in regard to my inquiries. Where all have shewn themselves equally desirous of contributing information, it would be invidious to mention the names of any particular gentlemen.

To John Fownes Luttrell, esq. M. P. I am indebted for his allowing many interesting extracts relating to

“ had happily departed from the land before the reign of Henry III. *This we may infer from the statute of Henry III. ch. 14. declaring in 1225, ‘ how men of all sorts shall be amerced ;’ and it only mentions villans, freemen, though probably not in the modern sense, merchants, barons, earls, and men of the church.*”

How erroneous Mr. Chalmers’s inference is, relating to the termination of slavery in England, is manifest from the commission above-mentioned, as having been issued by Queen Elizabeth, for the purpose of inquiring into the actual state of her bondmen, in the year 1574. Besides, it is not likely that the statute ever contemplated amercing men in a state of slavery. When they committed offences they were punished in a more summary manner.

¹⁸ Nichols’s *Leicestershire*. vol. i. p. xliij.

the manor and castle of Dunster, and the families of Mohun and Luttrell, to be made for the use of this work, from Prynne's Index to the Muniments preserved in Dunster Castle.

Also to William Leigh, esq. of Bardon, for several valuable communications relating to the manors of Dunster and Minehead, and for various other particulars connected with the history of this hundred.

To John Hugh Smyth Pigott, esq. of Brockley Hall, in this county, for the drawing of the town and castle of Dunster, from which the engraving of the frontispiece to this volume has been made.

To Mr. William Collard Cox, of Carhampton, Land Surveyor, I owe the preliminary descriptive account of the several parishes inserted in this work, and also much other local information, which his residence and observation have enabled him to acquire. I am also indebted to him for the drawing of the map of the Hundred of Carhampton, and for that of the gateway of Dunster Castle, given in this work.

To Edward Samuel Byam, of Cheltenham, esq. I owe the account of the family and descendants of the late eminent and loyal Dr. Byam, rector of Luccombe.

To William Davis, of Taunton, esq. for many particulars relating to the trade and other local matters, connected with the borough and port of Minehead.

In the account of Dunster, I have been indebted for some extracts from a communication to the

Gentleman's Magazine, by William Hamper, of Birmingham, esq. containing a brief description of that town.

I am also under many obligations to Mr. Strong, of Clare Street, Bristol, Bookseller, for the loan of many scarce and valuable books, to which I have had occasion to refer, in the course of compiling this work.

JAMES SAVAGE.

Jan. 1, 1830.

HISTORY

OF THE

HUNDRED OF CARHAMPTON.

**EXTENT AND BOUNDARIES.—DIVISION OF COUNTIES INTO HUNDREDS.
—SCENERY AND FEATURES OF THIS HUNDRED.—DUNKERY
BEACON.—HISTORY OF BEACONS.—ORCHARDS OF SOMERSET-
SHIRE AND THEIR HISTORY.—ANCIENT CAMPS.—ENTRENCHED
RESIDENCES.—SEA-COAST OF SOMERSET.—CULBONE COVE.—
FORLOCK BAY.—MINEHEAD CLIFFS.—REMAINS OF ANCIENT
FORESTS.—WATCHET PIER.—BLUE ANCHOR BAY.—POPULATION
OF THIS HUNDRED AT THE CONQUEST, AND IN 1821.—POPU-
LATION RESULTS.—POSSESSORS OF LAND IN CARHAMPTON, IN
THE REIGN OF EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, AND AT THE CONQUEST.
—ANCIENT MILLS IN CARHAMPTON.—TITHES OF MILLS.—ECCLE-
SIASTICAL JURISDICTION.—DEANERY OF DUNSTER.—VALUATION
OF LIVINGS, 1291.—LELAND'S DESCRIPTION OF THE HUNDRED
OF CARHAMPTON.—NOMINA VILLARUM OF THE HUNDRED.**

THE Hundred of Carhampton is situated in the south-west part of the County of Somerset, and is bounded on the north by the Bristol Channel; on the east and south by the Hundred of Williton and the Free Manors; and on the west by the County of Devon.

This hundred contains two market towns, Dunster

and Minehead, and in all sixteen parishes, namely, Carhampton, Culbone—anciently called Kitnore—Cutcombe, with Luxborough annexed, Exford, Luccombe, Oare, Porlock, Selworthy, Stoke-Pero, Timberscombe, Treborough annexed to Nettlecombe, Withycombe, and Wootton-Courtenay.

In the Exeter Domesday, there is the following account of this hundred :—

“ In the Hundred of Carhampton there are forty hides and one virgate, and three ferlings and a half of land. The king has thence his geld, amounting to £10 11s. 6d. for thirty-five hides and one virgate, and the king’s barons have in their demesnes five hides wanting one ferling. Of these, Ralph de Limesi has a hide and a half; Ralph de Pomaria half a hide; William de Faleise one hide and a virgate and a half; two nuns half a hide; William, the sheriff, three virgates; and Roger Corcelle half a virgate.”¹

In the Testa de Nevill, there are the following particulars relating to the Hundred of Carhampton :—

“ Reginald de Mohun holds *Dunster*, with its appurtenances, *in capite* of the king, from the time of the Conquest of England, by the service of forty knights’ fees and a half.

“ Henry de Douvera holds *Hor* of the king, *in capite*, but it is neither known by what service, nor of whose gift.

¹ Exon. Domesday, fo. 69.

“Robert de Mandeville holds *Winemersham*, which is in his Barony of Marshwood.

“Warine Fitz-Gerold holds *Wootton*, which belongs to his Barony of Stoke-Courcy.

“Abel de Hunecot holds half a virgate of land in *Hunecote* (Holnicot) of the king, which William, king of England, gave to Edith, in pure and perpetual alms, because her husband was slain in the king’s service.”²

In the fourth year of king Edward I. (1276), the following inquisition, relating to encroachments made upon the property of the crown in this hundred, appears among the Hundred Rolls:—

“The Jurors of the Hundred of Carhampton say, That John de Mohun, has the return of writs, and has a gallows, and the assize of bread and beer, belonging to his Barony of Dunster.

“That the bailiff of John de Mohun, in the Hundred of Carhampton, before the time that Nicholas Pauncefoot was sheriff of Somerset, now twenty years past, was accustomed to summon, distrain, attach, and levy the debts of our Lord the King, in the manor of Winsford, but the same sheriff did not permit the said bailiff to do the things aforesaid, neither has any sheriff since that time.”³

“They say also that John de Mohun, Warine de Seccheville, Simon Fitz-Rogo, Simon de Meriet, Robert Martin, and Nicholas Fitz-Martin take and

² Testa de Nevill, p. 162.

³ Rot. Hund. vol. 2. p. 125, 126.

retain all cattle found straying, but they know not by what authority."⁴

Hundreds, says Lambard, (under the word *Centuria*) were first ordained, or more properly introduced by King Alfred. They seem to have obtained in Denmark at an early period; and we find that in France a regulation of this sort was made above two hundred years before, (hundreds being mentioned in the Salique Law) with a view of obliging each district to answer for the robberies committed in its own division. These divisions were, in that country, as well military as civil; and each contained one hundred freemen, who were subject to an officer called the *Centenarius*, a number of which *Centenarii* were themselves subject to a superior officer called the *Count* or *Comes*.⁵ And indeed something like this institution of hundreds may be traced back as far as the ancient Germans, from whom were derived the Franks, who became masters of Gaul, and the Saxons who settled in England; for both the thing and the name, as a territorial assemblage of persons, from which, afterwards, the territory itself might probably receive its denomination, were well known to that warlike people. "Centeni ex singulis pagis sunt, idque ipsum inter suos vocantur; et quod primo numerus fuit, jam nomen et honor est."⁶

The word *hundred* is not only used for the division itself, but for the levy or contribution paid to the *Hundredarius*, or Chief Constable of every hundred for the better support of his office. From which imposition some persons were exempted by special privilege. *Secti Hundredi*, or suit to the hundred, was to pay a personal attendance, and do suit and service at the hundred court held in some places once in three weeks, and in others once a month. By the statute of the 14th of Edward III. the hundred court is

⁴ Rot. Hund. vol. 2. p. 140.

⁵ Montesq. Sp. of Laws, 30. 17.

⁶ Tacitus de Mor. Germ. 6.

merged in the county court; yet some few hundreds have their old Franchises remaining.⁷

The *Hundredarius* is termed in Domesday Book *Custos, Prefectus, or Prepositus de Hundret*.

The place of assemblage in Scotland was called the *Parle-Hill*, a hill generally fortified with a vallum, and situate with a champaign around, lest they should be exposed to danger; and the privilege of asylum was granted to the hill. Tinwald, in the Isle of Man, is a perfect specimen of this kind of court. Our hundred courts were also held in conspicuous spots, and an assimilation to both will be found in the Druidical *Gorsedds*. Deeds were read over in these courts for the sake of evidence.⁸

In the Exeter Domesday there is a list of the hundreds in the County of Somerset, among which we find "Carentone," now Carhampton; "Codecoma and Manehefue," now Cutcombe and Minehead; "Codecoma," now Cutcombe, "Manehfue," now Minehead; all of which are consolidated in the present Hundred of Carhampton.

The scenery of this hundred is mountainous and romantic in a high degree. Its principal feature is Dunkery, a very large and high mountain, lying about eight miles south from Minehead. From the church at Wootton-Courtenay the ascent to its summit is three miles, and is very steep. Its base is about twelve miles in circumference. The highest part is stated in the Report of the Ordnance Trigonometrical Survey, to be sixteen hundred and sixty-eight feet above the level of the sea, and with the exception of

⁷ *Kennet's Glossary, under HUNDREDUS.*

⁸ Du Cange, v. *Parle-Hill*.—Grose, Suppl. p. 161.—Fosbroke's *Ency. of Antiq.* vol. 1. p. 404.

Cawsand Beacon, in the northern part of Dartmoor forest, which is stated in the same report to be seventeen hundred and ninety-two feet, is, it is believed, the highest land in the west of England.

A part of the base of this mountain, in the parish of Cutcombe, was inclosed under an act of parliament a few years since. The remainder affords pasturage for sheep; and turf, the principal fuel of the labouring classes in the neighbourhood. In many places it is covered with the whortleberry plant, several species of erica, and some rare bog and other mosses.

Dunkery affords such an extensive and noble prospect as to merit a particular description. In a clear day, the view extends on the south-west to the high lands near Plymouth; and on the north to the Malvern Hills, in Worcestershire: two parts of the country, which are more than two hundred miles distant from each other. On the west and north-west, the Bristol Channel, for nearly one hundred and thirty miles in length, lies under the eye, with the greater part of South-Wales from Monmouthshire down to Pembrokehire, rising in a fine amphitheatre beyond it. To the east and south, the greater part of Somersetshire, Dorset, and Devon, with some parts of Hants and Wilts, appear in view. When the air is clear and serene, and not too bright, the line which bounds the horizon, cannot be less than five hundred miles in circumference, circumscribing fifteen counties.

On the top of Dunkery, there is a vast collection

of rough loose stones, from one pound to two hundred pounds in weight each; and among them, the ruins of three large fire-hearths, about eight feet square, and built of rough unhewn stones. These fire-places form an equilateral triangle, and in the centre there is another hearth considerably larger than the rest. At the distance of nearly a mile, and more than two hundred feet lower, the vestiges of two other hearths are visible, with great quantities of rough loose disjointed stones scattered round them. These are the remains of those beacons which were formerly erected on this elevated spot, in order to alarm the country in times of civil discord, or foreign invasion. Hence the highest point of this hill is called Dunkery Beacon.⁹

To the north, south, and east of the ridge on which the beacon stands, the mountain slopes down for a long distance; but on the western side, it joins the high lands which connect it with the forest of Exmoor. Upon this ridge, west of the beacon, are three barrows, formed by collections of stones, called Great Rowbarrow, Little Rowbarrow, and Whitebarrow. The beacon is often covered with clouds, and then becomes a stupendous local barometer; for on such occasions rain is certain speedily to follow.

⁹ In a curious old map of East Quantock's Head, drawn from a survey in 1687, and now in the possession of William Leigh, Esq. of Bardon, the bearings for a particular point are given of Watchet, Dunster-Castle, Minehead Quay, and Dunkery Beacon; on the top of the latter is a representation of a small round tower.

Beacon, from the Anglo-Saxon, *Beacn*, the same as the Latin *Signum*, to shew by signs, to beckon; Belgic *Baecke*, the same as the Greek *Pharos*, Latin *Pharus*, Anglo-Saxon *Beacn-Torre*, a Fire-Tower, Signal-Tower, Light-House.

Different methods have been taken in different countries, both anciently and in later ages, for imparting notice of danger; and no signals have more generally prevailed than those of fires in the night. We find from the poems of Ossian, that Beacons were familiarly in use among the ancient Britons and the western Highlanders of Scotland. The besieged capital of the northern Caledonian Islands in the third century having lighted a fire upon a tower, Fingal instantly knew "the green flame edged with smoke" to be a signal of attack and distress.¹⁰ And there are to this day several cairns or heaps of stones upon the heights along the coasts of the Harries, on which the inhabitants used to burn heath as the signal of an approaching enemy.¹¹

Signals, by means of lighted torches, called *Φυκτροι*, or by smoke, on the approach of friends or enemies, were in use among the Greeks; but their use is more particularly described in the Agamemnon of Æschylus, where by means of these beacons, by a communication from Mount Ida to the promontory in Lemnos, thence to Mount Athos, and so on, Clytemnestra receives notice immediately of the taking of Troy. There is also a description of them in the first book of Barclay's *Argenis*, where the scene lies in Sicily; and he calls them *Angeri*, which is the name the Persians gave their messengers of state.¹²

The Beacon was always placed upon high ground, sometimes on a tumulus, and sometimes, as in the present instance, on a mountain. From Lord Coke we learn (fourth Inst.) that before the time of Edward III. Beacons were but stacks of wood set up on high places, which were set fire to when the coming of an enemy was descried; but in his reign pitch-boxes were set up instead of them. In time

¹⁰ Ossian, vol. 1. p. 198.

¹¹ Ency. Brit. v. Beacon.

¹² *Hutchins's Dorset*, vol. 1. *Introd.* p. lix.

of danger a watch was kept at these beacons, and horsemen, called *hobblers*, were stationed by most of them to give notice of the approach of an enemy.

The erection of beacons, light-houses, and sea-marks, both for alarming the country in case of the approach of an enemy, and for the direction and safety of ships, is a branch of the royal prerogative. It must, however, be understood, that the power of erecting beacons was occasionally given to individuals, and limited by grants from the crown; whence, or for some achievements performed in times of danger, the beacon is worn as a crest in the armorial bearings of several families, as Belknap, Butler, Montfort, Sudley, and Shelly of Michelgrove; one or two of whom obtained special grants which empowered them to erect and maintain beacons at their own expense.

The care of these, when erected by the crown, was committed to one or more of the adjacent hundreds; and the money due or payable for their maintenance, called *Beconagium*, was levied by the sheriff of the county upon each hundred.

By Statute of the eighth of Elizabeth, ch. 13. the Corporation of the Trinity-House are empowered to set up any beacons or sea-marks wherever they shall think them necessary; and if the owner of the land, or any other person, shall destroy them, or shall take down any steeple, tree, or other known sea-mark, he shall forfeit £100, and in case of not being able to pay that sum, shall be *ipso facto* outlawed.

The orchards of this part of the county, from the fruit of which much cider is made of good quality, must not be passed by unnoticed. The best fruit-trees delight in a strong clayey soil; but unless great attention is observed in making, the labour is in vain; for cider requires much greater nicety of management in its fermentation than malt-liquor. The apples are suffered to fall off the trees, or when thoroughly ripe,

are picked with great care. They are then placed in heaps to ferment, and remain in that state for three or four weeks: after they are ground, and the liquor expressed, it is suffered to remain in tubs, from thirty to forty hours, when a scum or froth will arise on the top; this they narrowly watch, and when it breaks, they rack for the first time into vessels; after which unremitting attention is necessary, by early and frequent rackings, *to prevent excessive fermentation.*

It is highly proper to mention, that if any lead be employed in the presses or mills used for the extraction of cider, or in pans or other vessels, to receive it, that metal is immediately acted on by the malic acid, and produces the most deleterious effects on the liquor, impregnating it with the most deadly qualities. Farmers will therefore do well to abstain altogether from the use of leaden pans and vessels in the preparation of cider, and have their presses and mills made of wood *only*.

It may here also not be unnecessary to caution farmers possessing orchards, not to fall in with the usual custom of beating down the apples with sticks and long rods. Early in the autumn, the buds for the succeeding year are formed, and being tender, are soon destroyed. To this violent attack on the branches, where practised, may, in a great degree, be attributed the incapacity of trees to bear fruit two years in succession.

The names of the same apples, used in making

cider, are different in different places. The principal cider apples are here called the Kingston Black Apple, Cadbury, Latkins, Devonshire Red Streaks, Poor-man's Profits, Sheep-noses. There are also many varieties of the Pippin and Bitter-sweets.

The principal apples used in the vale of Taunton for the making of cider, are there called the *Kingston Black Apple*, which is said to make the best cider; the *Court of Wick Pippin*, and a variety called *Fry's Pippin*; the Monday Apple, an excellent one, but it is going out; the old Jersey; the Buckland; and the Red Streak; all good cider apples. Formerly there were the Royal Wilding, the White Styre, and the Black Pit Crab, but it is understood that the trees are exhausted and the fruit worn out. There are also the Pounset or Cadbury, the Mediate or South Ham, the Royal Jersey, the Woodcock, and the Red Hedge Pippin; but they are either not much liked, or at present but little known or cultivated.

The orchards of Somersetshire are as ancient as the Celtic period of the British history. The Apple¹³ seems to have been originally imported into Britain by the first colonies from Gaul, and in particular by the British *Hædwi*, a Celtic tribe,¹⁴ who settled in the northern and eastern parts of the county. Hence we find the site of the present Glastonbury to have been distinguished, before the Roman advent, by the discriminating title of *Avallonià*, or "The Apple Orchard." And the soft keen relish of the fruit so strongly recommended it to the Britons, that another *Avallonià* arose in the north

¹³ In the Welsh, the Cornish, the Armorican, and the Irish languages, all of them dialects of the Celtic, this fruit is invariably denominated the *Avall*, *Aball*, or *Apple*.

¹⁴ Several nations of the primitive Britons appear to have retained the names of the tribes of which they were originally members, and from which they migrated in colonies to Britain. Such were the *Hædwi* of Somersetshire, who were descended from the *Ædwi* of Gaul.

of England. And before the third century the fruit appears to have been disseminated over the island, and to have even stocked the distant and unromanized regions of Shetland with large plantations of the Trees.¹⁵

The scarcity of the native, and the dearness of the foreign wines in Italy, several ages before the conquest of Britain by Agricola, had called out the inventive faculties of the Roman mind, and occasioned the original discovery of the factitious wines. These were still continued by the Romans and naturally taught to the Britons. They were made of almost all the products of the orchard and garden ; the pear, the apple, the mulberry, and other fruits. Two of them, therefore, were those agreeable liquors which we still extract from the apple and the pear, and which we still denominate cider and perry. The latter must have been called *pyrum* by the Romans, and was therefore called *per-ui*, *perry*, or *pear-water*, by the Britons. The former actually received the appellation of *sicera* among the Romans, the word being pronounced by them "*sidera*," as the same pronunciation among the present Italians satisfactorily evinces, and retained therefore the appellation of "*cider*" among the Britons.¹⁶

Eugene Aram, in his "Collections for a Dictionary of the Celtic Language," says that the name of the apple-tree is a corruption of "Apollo's tree." And that this is its original, will be easily deducible from a little reflection on the proofs in support of it. The prizes in the sacred games were the olive crown, apples, parsley, and the pine. Lucian, in his Book of Games, affirms that apples were the reward in the sacred games of Apollo ; and Curtius asserts the same thing. It appears also that the apple-tree was consecrated to Apollo before the laurel ; for both Pindar and Callimachus observe that Apollo did not put on the laurel until after his conquest of the Python, and that he appropriated it to himself on account of his passion for Daphne, to whom the laurel was sacred. The victor's wreath at first was a bough with its apples hanging upon it, sometimes with a branch of

¹⁵ Whitaker's History of Manchester, p. 321

¹⁶ Ibid. p. 312.

laurel; and antiquity united these together as the reward of the victor in the Pythian games.

In this hundred, there are numerous ancient camps or intrenchments, which are generally attributed, but without any good or sufficient reason, to the Romans. The north and north-eastern part of the county, it will be recollected, was, in the earliest period of our history, the frontier between the Belgæ and the Celtic Aborigines of the island, and the vicinity of the great boundary called *Wansdike*,—from its entrance into Somersetshire at Bath-hampton, to its immersion in the channel at Portishead Point,—may be expected to have been the seat of numerous conflicts between the two nations. It may be supposed that the Belgæ who resided on the southern side of that boundary, would fortify and strengthen their places of residence, which were always placed on high and commanding situations, by ramparts and ditches. Five or six centuries after the period here alluded to, the same boundary divided the kingdom of the West Saxons from that of Mercia; and we may naturally look for many similar fortifications erected by the former people in these parts.

I owe the following judicious observations on this interesting subject to the Rev. S. Seyer's "Memoirs of Bristol."

"One observation will be necessary concerning the general use and intention of these British fortifications.

They are frequently called *camps*, but it must not be supposed that they were constructed, according to the modern notion of a camp, for the occasional protection of marching armies. The military discipline of the Romans, with the regular payment and subsistence provided for their troops, enabled *them* to form camps for this purpose, wherever they moved; but the policy of the Britons had not yet assumed a form so regular: their warfare was tumultuary, their campaigns of short duration; they had not yet learned to fortify the place where their army was to make a temporary stay. It was on an occasion which happened two years after his British expedition, that Cæsar said, that "the Gauls then for the first time undertook to fortify a camp."

"The camps, as they are improperly called, of which we are now speaking, were certainly intended as fortified towns, where probably the chief with his immediate dependents and some few others resided; and into which the inhabitants of the neighbourhood might retreat, when attacked by banditti or any of the bordering tribes, and defend themselves with advantage. Cæsar says this distinctly: "the Britons call it a town, when they have fortified any woods difficult of access with a ditch and rampart; where it is their practice to take refuge, in order to avoid the assault of their enemies:" which description is perfectly suitable to one of our fortresses on the Avon. The whole country seems to have been full of

them. When Cæsar attacked the Britons at his second landing, "they retired into the woods, and took possession of a place excellently fortified by art and nature, which they had provided before, apparently for the purpose of domestic war." Into these hill-forts they also drove their flocks and herds, where they might find security, until the danger should be overpassed, or the strength of the country might come to their relief: when Cassivellaun's town was stormed by Cæsar, a number of cattle, as well as men, were taken there. Their resident inhabitants were probably few; the main part of the population lived in wooden huts covered with straw, scattered through the country, for the purpose of attending to their flocks and herds, their only property, which were dispersed in the woods and uninclosed pastures.

"Another kind of fortified towns the Britons had, described by Strabo, which was nothing more than a number of trees felled, and so piled and arranged as to inclose a sufficient space of ground; within which, they built their huts, and folded their cattle. Such towns were in the woods, and being only temporary, no vestiges of them can remain."

The sea-coast of Somersetshire, or more properly, the southern shore of the Bristol channel, is extremely irregular; in some parts projecting into large, lofty, and rocky promontories, and in others receding into

fine bays, with flat and level shores. The extreme point of the coast westward, towards Devonshire, presents a grand scene of craggy, romantic, and inaccessible rocks, extending from the limits of that county to Porlock Bay, a commodious road for shipping ; this bay terminates eastward in *Orestone Point*, an immense headland, from which there is a continued range of high cliffs to Minehead. Part of these rocks are insulated at high water, and the rest rise in the boldest manner from one hundred to more than three hundred feet high. In spring tides, when the wind sets in strong from the west, the fury of the sea is here so violent, that it has washed vast caverns in the solid rock, some of which are eight feet within the rock, sixty feet wide, and nearly one hundred feet high. On the coming in of the tide in a storm, the roaring and dashing of the waves, and the echoes from these caverns are really tremendous. At low water, the shore exhibits a striking scene of rocky fragments which have from time to time been broken from the cliffs above, and lie widely scattered, or piled on each other, in wild magnificence. The cliffs on the east side of this point to Greenaleigh or Minehead hill, hang over the beach with awful sublimity and grandeur. The rocks are impregnated with iron ore, and there is also some copper, but not in a sufficient quantity for working. In many of the roads pyrites are frequently found in large lumps. The sea-pebbles are mostly large, and washed up by strong tides from the

Welsh coast; great quantities of them are burned into lime, which is the principal manure used by the farmers in this neighbourhood.

The following account of the southern coast of the Bristol Channel, westward from Bridgwater Bay, is taken from Captain Nicholls's Report on the projected Ship Canal for the Junction of the English and Bristol Channels.

"The whole of the south coast of the Bristol Channel, westward of Bridgwater Bay, is bold and safe to approach, and the tide ranges fairly along it; so that a vessel leaving any part of it, will enter immediately into the open channel. The shore recedes a little, so as to form a slight curvature between Little Stoke, or Lilstock Point, on the east, and the high land about Minehead, on the west; and nearly in the centre of this line stands the town and pier of Watchet.

"The present pier at Watchet is tolerably spacious. The water rises in it to about seventeen feet on the spring tides; and at neap tides, vessels drawing eight feet, may generally enter it at high water, if the weather is moderate. The tide ebbs out on the springs to half, and sometimes to three quarters of a mile without the pier; and it does not rise so as to flow up to the present pier-heads, until three hours flood; nor is there nine feet water within the pier till three quarters flood, or until the tide has flowed four hours and a half on the springs.

"Watchet stands on nearly a straight line of coast;

its roadstead is therefore perfectly open, and can afford shelter to shipping only when the wind is off the land; that is from about south-east to south-west. The beach opposite to Watchet, and for several miles to the east of it, and as far to the westward as Blue-Anchor Bay, is composed of firm ridges of Lias rock, and of detached masses of the same material. This rocky beach extends down to about low water-mark, which seems indeed to define its boundary, as the bottom there gradually shelves away to two fathoms water, at about half a mile without it, mud and sand; and along this whole coast there is good clear anchoring ground in the offing. When there is a fresh wind from the northward, and during the prevalence of our winter gales, a very heavy sea is thrown in over the rocky beach at Watchet.

“Blue-Anchor Bay is situated midway between Watchet and Minehead, about three miles distant from each, and to both places it serves as a roadstead. It is open on the east, but on the south and west sides it is completely sheltered by hills of considerable elevation, which approach towards the back of the bay, and continue up past Minehead, terminating at Greenaleigh Point. It is sheltered from all winds from west-north-west, round to south and south-east; and even with the wind at north-east, which blows directly in, so good is the ground for holding, it being a stiff blue clay, that if a vessel is well provided with ground tackling, she may ride out a gale here in safety.

"The shores of Blue-Anchor Bay, consist of loose shingle at high water-mark, and a little without it; beyond which, along the whole centre of the bay for a mile in width, there is a flat ground on which vessels may lie aground in moderate weather. There is neither danger nor difficulty of any kind in entering this bay, or departing from it; and the general velocity of the tides in the Bristol Channel is here much lessened by the sudden turn of the coast to the northward.

"The spring tides in the Bristol Channel rise full thirty-six feet at the mouth of the river Parret, and flow with an astonishing velocity."

In a narrow cove, in the north-west corner of the county, close by the Bristol Channel, stands the little village of Culbone, about four hundred feet above the level of the sea. On each side this cove, the hills rise almost perpendicularly more than twelve hundred feet. That on the west is conical, and considerably higher. The back of the cove is a noble amphitheatre of steep hills and rocks, which rise near six hundred feet above the church, and are covered with coppice woods to the top. The trees which compose these vast plantations, set by the hand of nature, are oaks, beech, mountain-ash, and poplars, mingled together in wanton variety. The woods are the habitats of some rare plants, and they abound with whortleberries, and a variety of fine polypodies, lichens and other mosses;

among which is some of the yellow rein-deer moss, very bright and scarce. Many wild deer, foxes, badgers, and marten-cats, inhabit these woods. In the back ground of this cove, through a steep and narrow winding glen, a fine rivulet rushes down a narrow rocky channel overhung with wood, and passing by the church, forms a succession of cascades in its descent down the rocks into the sea. This spot is perhaps as truly romantic as any which the kingdom can exhibit. The magnitude, height, grandeur of the hills, rocks, and woods; the solemnity of the surrounding scene, the sound of the rivulet roaring down its craggy channel; the steep impassable descent from Culbone church down to the beach; the dashing of the waves on a rough and stony shore at an awful distance below; the extent of the Bristol Channel; and the finely-varied coast and mountains of Wales beyond it; form altogether a scene peculiarly adapted to strike the mind with rapture and astonishment.

The situation of Porlock is finely romantic, being nearly surrounded on all sides, except towards the sea, by steep and lofty hills, intersected by deep vales and hollow glens. Some of the hills are beautifully wooded, and are inhabited by numbers of wild deer. The valleys are deep and picturesque; the sides being steep, scarred with wild rocks, and patched with woods and forest shrubs. Some of the valleys, however, are well cultivated, and studded with villages, or single farms and cottages.

West of the village of Exford, is the ancient royal forest of Exmoor; it was, a few years since, a wild uncultivated waste, intersected by deep winding valleys and romantic hollows, through most of which, generally over rocky channels, ran many small streams. It used to afford pasturage for a particular sort of horned sheep, and a breed of very small but excellent horses, called "Exmoor Poneys." It has been purchased within these few years of the crown by that public-spirited individual, J. Knight, Esq., a gentleman of large fortune, who has inclosed and cultivated a considerable part of it, and is still continuing his improvements. A full account of this forest will be given in a separate article when we come to treat of the Hundred of Williton and the Free Manors.

Between Minehead Point, called Greenaleigh, another high promontory, rising six hundred and ninety feet above the level of the sea, and Blue-Anchor rocks, in the parish of Old Cleeve, a distance in a right line of about four miles, the shore is flat, and forms a curve of about seventy degrees of a circle, constituting the Bay of Blue-Anchor. In some parts of this bay, many hundred yards below high water-mark, after a raking tide, the lower parts of the trunks and the roots of many trees are to be seen; they all appear to have been felled with the axe.¹⁷ There are some

¹⁷ Collinson says that "this old wood, when broken parallel to the grain, contains a number of shells and oak-leaves within its very substance. The

good places for bathing on the shores of this bay, particularly at Minehead and near Blue-Anchor rocks, where there is an excellent inn for the accommodation of visitors. At sun-rise, the view from the lawn and windows of this house is grand and beautiful; directly in front is Minehead Hill, whose northern side overhangs the sea, whilst on the south and south-east it gradually slopes down to a plain; some distance up this slope stands the church and part of the town of Minehead; another and the best part of the town is in the plain below; and at the foot of the precipice on the northern side is the quay-town and quay, where some vessels are always to be seen; to the left the eye ranges along a fine amphitheatre of hills with Dunkery and its lofty beacon in the back ground; between these hills and the sea, a distance of from two to three miles, is a finely-wooded and cultivated tract of land, studded with single houses and villages; near its centre stand conspicuously Dunster Castle and Conygar Tower, with their hanging woods; below and between them is the town of Dunster; to the right of Minehead Hill is the Bristol Channel, upon whose blue and glassy surface the white sails of many a vessel, from the small skiff to the large merchant-man, with the smoke of some steamer, each pursuing

shells are of the dottle kind, and in a semi-fossil state; but no recent shells of this kind are now found on this part of the coast."

I am informed, however, that there is some reason to doubt the accuracy of this statement.—J. S.

its trackless course, may generally be seen; still further to the right, and as far to the north-west as the eye can reach, is the high bold shore of South Wales. Near the above-mentioned house, which is called the Blue-Anchor Inn, some very convenient lodging-houses have been lately built by some gentlemen of the neighbouring town of Wiveliscombe, where every accommodation for persons wishing to reside near the sea during the bathing season, may be had on moderate terms. The prospect from Minehead Hill at sun-set is equally fine.

This coast abounds with the common *bladder fucus*, which is burned into kelp for the Bristol market. The tide ebbs nearly a mile below high water-mark; and the rocks about Minehead and Porlock produce great quantities of laver, sea-liverwort, (*ulva lactuca*). This is gathered from the rocks and pickled, and sent in that state to Bath, Bristol, Exeter, and London, where, at the tables of the more respectable part of the community, it is eaten as a great delicacy.

On the hills and desert wastes of this district, grow the dwarf juniper, (*juniperus communis*), the cranberry, (*vaccinium oxycoccus*), and the whortleberry, (*vaccinium vitis idææ*). The latter produces a most agreeable fruit, which is carried in large quantities to Taunton and the neighbouring market towns in baskets and carts, and sold at three-pence and four-pence a-quart; and when made into pies is the delight

of the children. The berries grow singly, like gooseberries, on little plants, from a foot to eighteen inches in height. The leaves are ovated, and of a pale green, growing alternately on the branches. Miller, in his *Gardener's Dictionary*, says, the "best use of this fruit is for making a rob or jelly, which is eaten with all kinds of roast meat in Sweden, and is far preferable to that of the red currant as a sauce for venison. It is also said to be an excellent medicine in colds and sore throats." The whortleberry is the summer-food of the black game; and the demand for this fruit having become so great in the large towns, may be assigned as the principal reason for the decrease of that species of game on the Quantock and Brendon Hills.

The cultivated lands of this hundred may be divided into the high and the low lands; the latter comprises the greater part of the parishes of Withycombe, Carhampton, Dunster, Minehead, Luccombe, Selworthy, Porlock, Wootton-Courtenay, and Timberscombe. Entering the hundred by the turnpike road on the east, you pass through a level tract about three miles wide, until you come to Dunster; here Grabhurst, a hill whose acclivity is nearly forty degrees, divides it into two parts; the one narrow and deep, runs on the south of that hill, and between it and another high hill, called Croydon Hill, nearly two

miles and a half, when it becomes wider; here in a bend on the left is the village of Timberscombe; from hence it passes on undulating through Wootton-Courtenay to Porlock, where it joins the other which passes down on the northern side of Grabhurst, and between it and the highlands on the coast, whose extreme points are Greenaleigh and Orestone, thus isolating that hill; this tract is called the Low-country and generally produces good crops of corn, pulse, &c. besides having a fair proportion of good grazing lands. The principal manure used is lime, some of which is found in the neighbourhood, and of which from fourteen to twenty hogsheads are carried to an acre; the rest is brought from Wales in its natural state and here burnt; this is of a better quality than the other, and from ten to twelve hogsheads of it is considered good dressing. The general course of agriculture in this district is, to break up the ground after one or two years lea, manure it well, and take one crop of wheat and another of barley, with which latter grass seeds are sown; or the ground is spring-fallowed, manured well with dung, &c., and a crop each of turnips and barley taken; the latter being seeded out, as it is here termed, for grass. Another course is breaking up, as in either of the two former courses, and taking a crop of turnips and wheat, or wheat only, and then a crop of peas or vetches, when the ground is again manured, and a crop of wheat and another of barley taken; the latter being seeded out for grass as before mentioned.

Another and a better course is, to have a turnip crop between the corn crops.

The cattle are generally of the North-Devon breed, though larger than in their native county; for if cattle from the neighbourhood of Barnstaple be brought here and bred from, they increase in size for several generations.

Some farmers in this district have fine flocks of sheep, in the breeding and crossing of which they are very particular; others do not keep breeding flocks, but towards the fall of the year purchase lambing ewes, as good and as early in season as they can get them; these are kept very well, and the lambs come early to market, after which some of the youngest and best ewes are drawn out to lamb the next season, and the rest are soon fit for the butcher. The long wools of this neighbourhood are very good, in consequence of the sheep being kept so well in the winter and spring.

The high lands, or hill country, as it is called in the neighbourhood, are mostly laid out in breeding or dairy farms, very little wheat or barley being grown on them for sale, but a great many oats. In some places the ground is so steep that carriages cannot be used, and the corn is brought home in long crooks, and the manure carried out in wooden vessels called dossels. A more particular account will be given when we come to speak of the different parishes in this division of the hundred.

The roads in this country some years since were very bad; but since the passing of the first act of parliament for making a turnpike road to Minehead, they have gradually improved. At the present time, the bye ways are generally good, and the turnpike roads excellent, for which the public are indebted to the present commissioners and their efficient officers. The turnpike road from Taunton terminates at Minehead in that direction, but a branch of it passes through Dunster to Timberscombe, whence, until within five years past, it passed up a long steep ascent to Lipe Hill, where the acclivity is very great, and proceeded towards Dulverton; but since that time, by virtue of an act of parliament, a new road has been made from Timberscombe to Exbridge. This is trotting ground all the way, and being cut through hanging woods in some places, and carried along the banks of the river Exe in others, it is perhaps the finest and most romantic drive of the kind in the kingdom.

There is a good road, though not turnpike, which branches off from Alcombe, and after meeting another from Minehead goes on to Porlock, from whence it is continued to Lymouth, Linton, and the Valley of Rocks, in Devonshire.

There was a Priory at Dunster, in this Hundred, for Benedictine Monks, which was endowed by the Mohuns with considerable possessions, and annexed

as a cell to the Abbey of Bath. This cell consisted of only four or five monks, besides the prior, who was generally sent hither from the Abbey of Bath.¹⁸

In 1814 the estimated annual value of the real property in the several parishes and tithings of the Hundred of Carhampton, as assessed to the Property Tax, was £34,800. The county rate charged on this hundred by the new assessment is £36 5s. 0d.

POPULATION OF THE HUNDRED OF CARHAMPTON,

A. D. 1086.

[From Domesday Book.]

<i>Carhampton</i> —10:		Swineherds	6
Priest	1	Miller	1
Villan	1	Soldiers(<i>Milites</i>)	3
Bordars	8	Bondmen	6
<i>Radhuish</i> —1:		<i>Oaktrow</i> —2:	
Bordar	1	Villans	2
<i>Kitnore</i> —4:		<i>Dunster</i> —17:	
Villans	2	Bordars	15
Bordar	1	Millers	2
Bondman	1	<i>Avill</i> —7:	
<i>Cutcombe</i> —49:		Villan	1
Villans	22	Bordars	5
Bordars	11	Miller	1

¹⁸ See under Dunster.

<i>Stanton</i> —7:		<i>Langham</i> —15:	
Villans.....	2	Villans.....	5
Bordars	3	Bordars	8
Bondmen.....	2	Miller	1
<i>Alcombe</i> —11:		Bondman.....	1
Villans.....	3	<i>Minehead</i> —62:	
Bordars	4	Villans.....	27
Bondmen.....	4	Bordars ...	22
<i>Exford</i> —1:		Miller	1
Villan	1	Bondmen.....	12
<i>Luccombe</i> —37:		<i>Bratton</i> —7:	
Villans.....	26	Villans.....	2
Bordars	7	Bordars	4
Bondmen.....	4	Bondman.....	1
<i>Dover-Hay</i> —3:		<i>Oare</i> —16:	
Villans.....	2	Villans.....	7
Bordar	1	Bordars	5
<i>Luxborough</i> —12:		Bondmen.	4
Villaus.....	6	<i>Porlock</i> —15:	
Bordars	3	Villans.....	6
Bondmen.....	3	Bordars	3
<i>Knowle</i> —6:		Bondmen.....	6
Villans.....	4	<i>Bossington</i> —8:	
Bordar.....	1	Villans	5
Bondman.....	1	Bordars	2
<i>Eastbury</i> —21:		Bondman.....	1
Villans.....	6	<i>Selworthy</i> —15:	
Bordars	12	Villans	7
Bondmen.....	3	Bordars	5

Selworthy (continued.)

Miller	1
Bondmen	2

Holnicot—7:

Villans	4
Bordar	1
Nuns	2

Allerford—11:

Villans	6
Bordars	2
Miller	1
Bondmen	2

Stoke-Pero—8:

Bordars	8
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Timberscombe—15:

Villans	3
Bordars	10
Bondmen	2

Biccombe—9:

Villans	3
Bordars	6

Treborough—1:

Villan	1
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Brown—18:

Villans	13
Bordars	3
Bondmen	2

Withycombe—27:

Villans	14
Bordars	7
Bondmen	6

Wootton Courtenay—25:

Villans	10
Bordars	8
Miller	1
Bondmen	6

Total 447.

From this number of four hundred and forty-seven persons, must be deducted the two nuns at Holnicot; and the remainder, four hundred and forty-five, will be the heads of the male population of the Hundred of Carhampton, at the time of compiling Domesday Book, in the year 1086, (20th Will. Conq.) Supposing that all these four hundred and forty-five persons had families, we may, in that case, without any violence to probability, reckon that each family consisted of four persons; which will make the ac-

tual number of souls in the Hundred of Carhampton, twenty years after the Norman Conquest, to be seventeen hundred and eighty.

There is only one church and a priest mentioned as being in this hundred, at the period of which we are writing. This church and priest were at Carhampton.

In 1821, the population of this hundred stood as follows :—

Houses inhabited	1333
Houses uninhabited	45
Houses building	6
Families	1499
Of whom there were employed	
In agriculture ..	838
In trade and manufactures	377
All others	284
Persons :—viz.	
Males	3613
Females	3709
<hr/>	
Total 7322	

From the several parish registers, it appears that the number of baptisms in this hundred, in 1820 was, males, 120; females, 123; total, 243.—Burials, males, 52; females, 58; total, 110.—Marriages, 46.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT AS TO AGE OF THE POPU-
LATION OF THE HUNDRED OF CARHAMPTON,
LIVING 1821:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Persons	3613	3709

(Or as 57 males to 58 females)

Under 5 Years of Age ..	544	530
From 5 to 10	486	478
10 to 15	411	367
15 to 20	318	317
20 to 30	498	560
30 to 40	414	370
40 to 50	322	362
50 to 60	251	270
60 to 70	213	251
70 to 80	126	157
80 to 90	28	35
90 to 100	2	2
100 and upwards	0	0

From the preceding numbers, the following results are obtained:—

1. The number of persons living to each family is nearly five; the actual proportion being fifty-seven persons to every twelve families.

2. Nearly one-seventh of the whole population is under five years of age.

3. Half the population is under the age of twenty-one years.

4. One person in twenty-one lives to be upwards of seventy years of age.

5. Only four persons out of seven-thousand three-hundred and twenty-two attain upwards of ninety years.

6. Women after twenty years of age live longer than men.

7. The annual average number of deaths for ten years is one-hundred and three; so that one in seventy dies yearly; it would therefore take seventy-years to bury a number equal to the present population of the hundred of Carhampton.

8. There are seven females die for every six males.

9. The annual average number of births for ten years is two-hundred and fourteen; so that there are two-hundred and fourteen persons born for every one-hundred and three that die.

10. The births are in the proportion of one-hundred and nine males to one-hundred and four females.

11. The annual average number of marriages for ten years is forty-four, making an average of five births to each marriage.

POSSESSORS OF LAND IN THE HUNDRED OF CARHAMPTON, IN THE REIGN OF EDWARD THE CONFESSOR:—

Ælmer Cutcombe.

Algar, Earl of Mercia . Minehead, Porlock, Alcombe, Timberscombe,
& Wootton-Courtenay.

<i>Athelney Abbey</i>	Bossington.
<i>Alnod</i>	Withycombe.
<i>Aluerd</i>	Timberscombe.
<i>Aluric</i>	Dunster, Avill, Radhuish, and Bratton.
<i>Aluric and Brictuin</i> ..	Holnicot.
<i>Brismar</i>	Luxborough.
<i>Domno</i>	Exford.
<i>Eddida (Queen)</i>	Manor in Luccombe. Selworthy, Stoke-Pero.
<i>Edric</i>	Oare, Allerford, Treborough.
<i>Edwold</i>	Brown.
<i>Fitel or Vitalis</i>	A manor in Luccombe.
<i>Manno</i>	Oaktrow.
<i>Nuns (two)</i>	Manor in Selworthy.
<i>Osmond</i>	Culbone.
<i>Sarpo</i>	Exford.
<i>Thanes (two)</i>	Luxborough.
<i>Thanes (two)</i>	Biccombe.
<i>Thanes (three)</i>	Langham.
<i>Wallé</i>	Stanton.

POSSESSORS OF MANORS AND LANDS IN THE HUNDRED
OF CARHAMPTON, 1086, AS ENTERED IN
DOMESDAY BOOK:—

1. King William,
Carhampton.
2. Bishop of Coutances,
Culbone,—Withycombe.

3. Baldwin de Redvers,
Porlock.
4. Roger de Curcelle,
Doverhay,—Holnicot.
5. Roger Arundell,
Timberscombe.
6. William de Mohun,
Dunster,—Cutcombe,—Oaktrou,—Avill,—
Stanton,—Alcombe,—Exford,—Luxbo-
rough,—Eastbury,—Knowle,—Langham,
Minehead,—Bratton,—Stoke,—Biccombe
and Brown.
7. William de Faleise,
Wootton.
8. Ralph de Pomerai,
Oare.
9. Ralph de Limesi,
Luccombe,—Bossington,—Selworthy,—
Allerford,—Treborough.
10. Alured de Ispania,
Radhuish.
11. Odo Fitz-Gamelin,
Luccombe.

ANCIENT MILLS IN THE HUNDRED OF CARHAMPTON,
FROM DOMESDAY BOOK:—

Cutcombe	1
Dunster	2
Avill	1
Langham	1
Minehead	1

Selworthy	1
Allerford	1
Wootton-Courtenay	1

Mills more ancient than the ninth year of Edward II. (1316) are, by a statute then passed, entitled "*Articuli Cleri*," cap. 5, impliedly discharged of tithes. If such mill be rebuilt upon the old foundation, exemption shall hold good and revive. But if the materials of an old mill are employed in erecting a new one on a different site, though on the same stream; or if such new mill is built on land exempt from tithe, as having belonged to a religious house, personal tithes are due; that is, the miller must account for, and pay to the incumbent where the mill stands, the tenth part of the profits arising from corn, grain, and malt, ground, over and above all incidental charges. The tithe of mills is to be paid as a personal tithe, though strictly speaking it is not such, partaking of a predial nature *quia de locis certis percipitur*.¹⁹

The ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Hundred of Carhampton is comprised in the archdeaconry of Taunton, one of the three archdeaconries of the diocese of Bath and Wells. This archdeaconry is subdivided into four rural deaneries; namely, Dunster, Bridgwater, Crewkerne, and Taunton.

The Bishop and his clergy first lived together at the cathedral church; but several churches were soon erected in divers parts of each diocese, for the convenience of those converts who were more remote from the cathedral. These were not properly

¹⁹ Vide Toller's *Law of Tithes*, pp. 44, 45, and the authorities there referred to.

parochial churches, nor had they any certain bounds assigned them ; but were in common for the use of those neighbouring converts who pleased to frequent them ; and in our modern phrase were mere chapels of ease. But as kings first founded cathedrals for the good of their whole kingdom, dioceses and those smaller kingdoms being then of the same extent, so great men first founded parochial churches, for the good of themselves and their dependants, their bounds being those of their territories. The parishes into which dioceses were at first divided were but few in number, not more than one church being built for the use of one single territory. After this they were increased ; and it is probable that one was built in each manor, as either the necessity or the subdivision of property suggested. Thus each subordinate parish in time became distinct, and so by degrees that parochial division was settled which we now find in England. And that this obtained before the time of Edward the Confessor, appears from *Domesday Book*, in which the towns and parishes very nearly agree with the present division.

Churches being thus provided for the exercise of religion, their endowments, and the provision made for the maintenance of the clergy, come next under our consideration. When Augustin the first Archbishop of Canterbury, came into England, King Ethelbert gave him ample possessions for the maintenance of himself and his clergy. He did the same

at Rochester and London; and other princes proceeded in the same manner in the foundation and endowment of cathedral churches, in other parts of the kingdom. And it is most probable that tithes were included in these endowments, as ours were founded on the model of the Gallican churches, where tithes were paid long before. The first express mention we have of tithes is in the constitutions of Egbert, Archbishop of York, A. D. 750. They then belonged to the common treasure of the diocese, and seem to have been paid into the hands of the bishop, and distributed by him amongst his clergy, in such proportion as their services deserved. But when churches were founded, and endowed with glebe or certain portions of land appropriated to the resident minister, the bishops were easily prevailed on to appropriate the tithes also; reserving some share to themselves, and to the ministers officiating within the districts from whence they arose: the necessity of maintaining a number of itinerant priests being now at an end, and their cathedrals, by the munificence of princes and piety of private christians, being amply endowed for the maintenance of themselves and their college of priests, who attended on the service of the cathedral church.

Thus tithes have been appropriated to the uses of the church within this realm, for a term of more than one thousand years; a term in which the whole property of the kingdom has passed through several

hands, and been held by different titles and claims ; which those persons would do well to consider who look on the ordinary revenues of the church, as if they themselves were deprived of their just dues by those payments, which their estates were liable to at their first acquisition. This regularly leads us to add something concerning the beginning and occasion of vicarages, which make up almost one half of the parishes in England, to the great impoverishment of the church. Those churches whose advowsons belonged to monasteries were generally supplied by the monks themselves, and the tithes or profits of them were converted to the use of their monastery. But when they were allowed no longer to serve parochial cures, they presented to the bishop as other patrons, but reserved some pension to themselves to be annually paid by the incumbent. These payments after the Norman Conquest were greatly increased by the Norman Abbots ; the oppression and covetousness of the monks became intolerable ; and when any new regulations were made for the redress of grievances, they found out and practised some new mode of oppression. At last, being driven from all their artifices, they fell upon that mischievous design of *appropriation*, which gave the greatest blow to the secular clergy that they ever received since the first endowment of the church. They obtained from the Court of Rome, bulls of appropriation, whereby they converted the revenues of certain churches, whose

advowsons belonged to them, to themselves and their successors for ever. When the bishops interfered and would not permit them to serve the cure of these appropriated churches, they appointed vicars, or curates, at a certain annual stipend, which was afterward improved into a certain portion of tithes, which they now enjoy; and most of the appropriations which the secular clergy now possess were originally made to the monks, and after their dissolution conveyed to them by grant, purchase, or exchange.²⁰

There are the following peculiars in the deanery of Dunster, namely, Carhampton, under the jurisdiction of the Dean of Wells; Fitzhead and Wiveliscombe, under that of the prebendary of Wiveliscombe; Timberscombe, under the prebendary of Timberscombe; and St. Decumans and Williton, under the prebendary of St. Decumans; all in the cathedral church of Wells.

The churches of St. Decumans, Timberscombe, and Wiveliscombe, in the Deanery of Dunster, give name to Prebends in the Cathedral church of Wells.

The following is the valuation of the several churches and benefices in the deanery of Dunster, extracted from Pope Nicholas's taxation, made in the year one thousand two hundred and ninety-one. This

²⁰ Hutchins's Dorset, *Introduct.* p. xxxi.

taxation is a most important record, because all the taxes, as well to our kings as the popes, were regulated by it, until the survey made in the twenty-sixth year of Henry VIII.; and because the statutes of colleges which were founded before the Reformation, are also interpreted by this criterion, according to which their benefices, under a certain value, are exempted from the restriction in the statute of the twenty-first of Henry VIII., concerning pluralities.

The origin of this taxation is as follows :—

Pope Innocent IV., to whose predecessors in the See of Rome, the first fruits and tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices had for a long time been paid, gave the same, A. D. 1253, to King Henry III. for three years; which occasioned a taxation in the following year, sometimes called the Norwich taxation, and sometimes Pope Innocent's valor.

In the year 1288, Pope Nicholas IV. granted the tenths to King Edward I. for six years, towards defraying the expense of an expedition to the Holy Land; and that they might be collected to their full value, a taxation by the king's precept, was begun in that year, (1288) and finished as to the province of Canterbury, in 1291; and as to that of York in the following year; the whole being under the direction of John, Bishop of Winchester, and Oliver, Bishop of Lincoln.²¹

²¹ Mr. Caley's Preface to Pope Nicholas's Taxation, printed by order of the Commissioners of Records, folio, 1802.

DEANERY OF DUNSTER, A. D. 1291.—HUNDRED OF
CARHAMPTON.

Church of Exford	6	13	4
Church of Doverhay	8	6	8
Church of Luccombe	8	0	0
Church of Wootton	4	16	8
Pension of the Prior of Stoke-Courcy in the same (Alien)	0	10	0
Church of Selworthy	4	6	8
Pension of the Abbot of Athelney, in the same	2	0	0
Church of Minehead	6	13	4
Church of Cutcombe and Luxborough	6	13	4
Pension of the Prior of Dunster, in the same	2	0	4
Church of Dunster	8	0	0
Church of Carhampton	3	0	0
Pension of the Church of Wells, in the same	5	0	0
Vicarage of the same	4	13	4

In this taxation there is no mention of any church as then being (A. D. 1291) at Culbone, Oare, Porlock, Stoke Pero, Treborough, or Withycombe.

HUNDRED OF WILLITON AND THE FREE MANORS.

Church of Nettlecombe	8	0	0
Church of Winsford	8	0	0
Vicarage of the same	5	3	4
Pension of the Prior of Barlinch, in the same	0	10	0
Church of Brushford ..	6	0	0
Church of Dulverton	8	13	4
Pension of the Prior of Taunton, in the same	3	0	0
Church of Brompton Regis, with a Chapel	8	0	0
Pension of the Prior of Barlinch, in the same	2	0	0
Church of Hawkridge and Withypool	8	0	0
Church of Skilgate	4	0	0
Church of Exton	6	13	4
Church of Withiel	3	6	8
Church of Stoke Gomer	11	13	4
Pension of the Church of Wells, in the same	5	0	0
Pension of Robert de Littlebury, in the same	3	6	8
Pension of the Prior of Dunster, in the same	0	7	0
Church of Elworthy	4	6	8
Church of Brompton-Ralph	6	13	4
Church of Clatworthy	5	0	0
Church of Huish [Champflower] ..	5	6	8

Vicarage of St. Decumans	4	13	4
Church of Little Quantock's Head ..	4	6	4
Pension of the Prior of Stoke-Courcy, in the same (alien)	0	7	0

In the second volume of Leland's Itinerary, published by Hearne, there is a brief account of the towns and villages in that part of the county of which I am now treating, which I think it will be better to give in this place, rather than in a disjointed manner, under the respective parishes.

"The Se is about half a mile from Clife-Chapelle.

"From Clif-Chapelle to Dunster a 2. miles.

"I passid over a Brooke that cummith thorough Dunestor Park.

"Marsch Wood Park bytwixt our Lady of Clyve and Dunestor.

"Dunster Toun stondith in a botom. The Paroch Chirch is set in Ground sumwhat rising.

"There is a very celebrate Market at Dunstorre ons a Wekes.

"There is a Fair privilegid to be at Dunster every Whitsun-Mone-day.

"The Toun of Dunestorre makith Cloth.

"The Glory of this Toun rose by the *Moions* that were after Erles of Somersete.

"The *Moions* had *jura regalia* at Dunster.

"The *Moions* buildid the right goodly and stronge Castelle of Dunestorre.

"The Dungeon of the Castelle of Dunestorre hath beene fulle of goodly Building. But now there is but only a chapelle in good case.

"Syr Hugh Luterelle did of late dayes repaire this chapelle.

"The fairest part of the Castelle welle maintenid is yn the north est of the Court of it.

"Syr Hugh Luterelle in the tyme of Dame Margarete his wife, sister to the olde Lord Dalbeney, made a fair Tourre by North cummyng into the Castelle.

"Syr Hugh had another wife caullid *Guinlleam*, doughter to York of Devonshir.

"Syr Andrew Luterelle, sunne to Syr Hugh, build of new a pece of the Castel waul by est.

"There be great Hilles on every Side of the Castelle Hille except toward North Est.

"There longgith many Privileges and Knightes Services to be doone to this Castelle.

"Ther is a praty Park joyning to thest part of the Castelle.

"The late Priory of Blake-Monkes stode yn the rootes of the north west side of the Castelle, and was a Celle to Bathe.

"The hole Chirch of the late Priory servith now for the Paroche Chirch. Afore tymes the Monkes had the Est Parte closid up to their use.

"In the north part of this was buried undre an Arche by the high Altare one of the Luterelles, or, as I rather thynke, of the *Moions*, for he had a garland about his

helmet, and so were Lordes of old Tymes usid to be buried.

“There ly ij Images on the South Side of the Chauncelle of one of the *Moions* and his wife; and therby lay an Image of one of the *Everardes* Gentilmen first there set up by the *Moions*, yn token wherof they had a parte of the Castelle to defende by Service: the image lyith now bytwixt ij Arches or Boteres in the Chirch Yarde.

“The Maner Place of the *Everardes* was and yet ys at Aller in Carnetun Paroche a mile from Dunster Castelle.

“Carntoun is shortely spoken for Carantokes Towne, wher yet is a Chapel of this Sainct that sumtyme was the Paroche Chirche.

“Ther lyith one Elizabeth, wife to one of the Luterelles, afore the high Altare under a playne Stone.

“There cummith a praty Brooke by west from the Hilles therby, and so rennith

“From Dunestore to Minheved a 2. miles.

“Minheved hath ons a Weeke a praty Market.

“The fairest part of the Toun standith in the botom of an Hille. The residew rennith stepe up a long the Hille, yn the toppe wherof is a fair Paroche Chirche.

“The Toune is exceding ful of Irisch Menne.

“The Peere lyith at the North est Point of the Hille.

“There was a fair Park by Minheved, but Sir Andrew Lutterelle of late tyme destroyd it.

“From Minheved to Aber Thawan yn Glamorgan the nerest trajet there into Wales a 18. miles.

“From Mineheved up along the Severne Shore to Stoke Gurcy a xvij. miles, where is a goode village.

“Thens to the Sterte a 3. miles, and there is the mouth of Bridgewater Haven.

“From Minheved doune on the Severne shore to a place caullid Hores-Toun a 3. miles. There beginnith the Rode that is communely caullid Porlogh Bay, a meatly good Rode for Shippes, and so goith to Comban, peraventure shortely spoken for Columbane, a 3. miles of; and thus far I was adcertenid that Somerset-shir went or farther.

“From Comebane to the Sterte most parte of the shore is Hilly Ground, and nere the shore is no store of Wood: that that ys is al in Hegge Rowes of Enclosures.

“There is great plenty of Benes in this quarter and inward to the Landes.

“And of these Beenes ther is yn a Maner a Staple at Bridgewater when Corne is dere in the Parties beyond the Se.

“There is also yn this Quarter great Plenty of Whete and Catelle.

“From Dunestorre to Exford Village a 7. miles.

“Of these 7. miles 3. or 4. of the first were al hyllly and rokky, ful of Brokes in every Hilles botom and meatly woddid.

“These Brookes by my Estimation ranne toward the Severne Se.

“The Residew of the way to Exford was partely on a

moore and sumwhat baren of Corne, and partely hylly, having many Brookes gathering to the hither Ripe of *Ex Ryver*.

“There is a litle Tymbre Bridge at Exforde over *Ex Brooke*, ther being a smaull water.

“*Ex* risith in Exmore at a place caullid *Excrosse* a. 3. miles of by north weste, and so goith toward Tyvertun a xij. miles lower, and thens to *Excestre* a x. miles. Hereabouts is the large Forest of Exmore.

“From Exford to Simonsbath Bridge a 4. miles, al by Forest, baren, and morisch ground, where ys store and breeding of yong Catelle, but litle or no Corne or Habitation.

“There rennith at this place caullid Simonsbath a Ryver betwixt to great Morisch Hilles in a depe Botom, and ther is a Bridge of Woodde over this water. This Water risith by North Weste.

“The Water in Somer most communely rennith flat upon stones easy to be passid over, but when Raynes cum and Stormes of Wyntre it ragith and ys depe.

“Alwayes this Streame ys a great deale bygger Water then *Ex* is at Exford, yet it resortith into *Ex Ryver*.

“The Boundes of Somerseteshire go beyond this Streame one way by north west a 2. miles or more to a place caullid the *Spanne*, and the *Tourres*; for ther be Hillockes of yerth cast up of auncient tyme for Markes and Limites betwixt Somersetshir and Devonshire : and here about is the Limes and Boundes of Exmore Forest.

“From Simonsbath Bridge I rode up an high Morisch Hylle, and so passing by 2. myles in lyke Ground, the Soyle began to be sumwhat fruteful, and the Hylles to be ful of Enclosures, ontylle I cam a 3. miles farther to a poore Village caullid *Brayforde*, wher rennith a Broke by likelihod resorting to Simonsbath Water and Ex.”

NOMINA VILLARUM OF THE HUNDRED OF CARHAMPTON

Alcombe, in Dunster
 Allerford, Algarsford, in Selworthy
 Almsworthy, in Exford
 Avill, in Dunster
 Alderman's Barrow

Bakers
 Biccombe, in Timberscombe
 Bilbrook
 Blackborough
 Blackford, in Luxborough
 Blackford, or Tivington, in Selworthy
 Bossington, in Porlock
 Bossington Point
 Bowerhays, in Carhampton
 Brandy Street, in Selworthy
 Bratton, Bracton, in Minehead
 Briddicot, in Carhampton
 Broadwood, in Carhampton

Brockwell, in Wootton-Courtenay
Broom Street
Brown, in Treborough
Bryants, in Treborough
Burrow, in Wootton-Courtenay
Broomham

Carhampton
Codsend, in Cutcombe
Cowbridge, in Timberscombe
Croydon, in Carhampton
Culbone, or Kitnore
Cutcombe

Dover Hay, in Porlock
Dunkery Beacon
Dunster
Dunster Castle

Eastbury, in Carhampton
Edgecot, in Exford
Embercombe
Escott-Farm, in Carhampton
Exford
Exe River

Farland Point

Hapcott, in Minehead

Hindon, in Minehead
Holnicot, in Selworthy
Horner, in Luccombe
Huntsgate Mill, in Wootton-Courtenay

Knowle, in Carhampton

Langham, in Luxborough
Lower-Mill, in Exford
Luccombe, East
Luccombe, West
Luckwell Bridge, in Cutcombe
Luxborough
Lynch, West
Lype

Marshwood, in Carhampton
Minehead
Molesmead Bridge
Monkham

Oaktrow, in Cutcombe
Oare
Oule Knowle, in Carhampton
Ore-stone Point

Periton, in Minehead
Pool, in Brown
Porlock, East

Porlock, West

Radhuish, in Carhampton

Ranscombe, in Wootton-Courtenay

Rodlinch

Sandhill, in Withycombe

Selworthy

Slade, in Carhampton

Sparkshay, in Porlock

Stanton, in Dunster

Stoke Pero

Stowey Farm, in Cutcombe

Slowley, in Brown

Timberscombe

Tivington, or Blackford, in Selworthy

Treborough

Watercombe, in Cutcombe

Whetstone, in Porlock

Wichanger, in Luccombe

Withycombe

Wilmotsham, in Stoke-Pero

Wootton Courtenay

Wootton-Ford, in Wootton-Courtenay

Yearnor, in Porlock.

PARISH OF OARE.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—RECTORY.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—MANOR.—DOMESDAY SURVEY.—FAMILY OF POMEROY.—OF AURE OR DE AURE.—PRESENT STATE OF THE MANOR.—LEUCA, AS A MEASURE OF LENGTH OF PASTURE AND WOODLAND, IN DOMESDAY BOOK.

OARE,²² or **AURE**, is a parochial village, situate at the north-western extremity of the hundred and county, on the borders of Devonshire, twelve miles west from Minehead, and six from Porlock. This parish is bounded on the north by the Bristol channel, on the east by the parishes of Culbone and Porlock, on the south by the ancient royal forest of Exmoor, and on the west by the county of Devon. The country here is wild and romantic, and the village lies in a profound vale ; into which two others run nearly at right angles : all of which are environed by lofty hills. In the principal valley there are some singular-looking mounds, which at a distance appear as if they were

²² This village takes its name from the Anglo-Saxon *Ora*, the same as the Latin *Littus*, the sea-shore or coast.

artificial; but on examination they are found to be formed of solid rock, overgrown with heath.

The parish of Oare contains about four thousand acres of uninclosed lands, mostly sheep-walks, with some oak coppice woods; and about one thousand acres of inclosed grounds, of which about sixty acres are arable, and the rest meadow and pasture. Several springs rising in the hills to the east and south form a small stream called OARE RIVER, which runs over a rocky channel through the vale by the church; and a little below, it meets another stream, called BADGE-WORTHY or LONGCOMBE WATER; the latter stream is for some distance the boundary of the forest of Exmoor; it then divides the counties of Somerset and Devon, until it passes into the latter county, when, after uniting with several other streams, it falls into the sea at Lymouth.

The occupiers of lands in Oare are principally engaged in breeding cattle and sheep; the former are of the North-Devon breed, and the latter of the small horned kind, so well known by the name of "Porlocks."

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, valued in the king's books at £4 16s. 9d. and is discharged from the payment of tenths, the clear yearly value having been certified at £31 12s. 11d. In 1698, Mary Quirck, widow, presented to this living; in 1745, Peter Spurrier; and in 1790, it was in the gift of Mr. Nicholas Snow.

The presentation to this living belongs (1829) to Mrs. Pollock, the daughter of the Rev. John Oliver, a former rector, who purchased it of the late Mr. Nicholas Snow, about the year 1789.

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, there are the following particulars relating to this benefice :—

1535. Roger Haywood, Rector.

Annual value of the demesne, or

glebe lands.....	0	4	0
Tithes of wool and lamb	1	6	4
Predial tithes	2	4	0
Oblations and other casualties	1	6	0
	<hr/>		
	£5	0	4

Out of which there is annually paid

to the archdeacon for synodals .. 0 3 7

Clear..... £4 16 9

The rectorial tithes are now considered to be worth £70 annually; and the value of the living has been augmented from Queen Anne's bounty.

RECTORS OF OARE.

[From the Parish Register.]

1674. Elias Falvey.

1695. J. Roe.

1700. William Clare.

— William Clare, Junr., died 1788.

1788. John Oliver.

— John Blackmore, present Rector.

The parish register commences in 1674, but it is imperfect ; and in some places not legible.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a small building, having a tower with one bell. On the north wall of the nave, there are two mural monuments, thus inscribed :—

“ Here lieth the body of Peter Spurrier, who departed this life Nov. 21st, 1749, in the 68th year of his age.

“ Under this place lieth the body of Sarah Spurryer, who departed this life Dec. 11th, 1762, aged 73.

“ In memory of Dorcas Spurryer, of this parish, who departed this life the 24th day of June, 1772, aged 71 years.

“ In Memory of Nicholas Snow, of this parish, who died Jan. 18, 1791, aged 63 years.”

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £5 7s. 6d.; and in 1785, £22 2s. 5d. In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates, was £33 2s. 1d., at 2s. 11d. in the pound. In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, jointly with part of the hamlet of Yearnor, as assessed to the property-tax, was £463.— In 1818, the county rate was 9s. 7½d.

In 1801, the resident population of this parish was 64.

In the population abstract of 1821, the return for

the parish of Oare stands thus:—number of inhabited houses, 11;—number of families, 12; of whom 11 were chiefly employed in agriculture, and 1 in trade. Total number of persons, 66; of whom 37 were males, and 29 females.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor made to the House of Commons, in 1818, the Rev. Thomas Roe, the curate of this parish, states that there is not any school here, and that there are not more than six children in the parish.

In 1815, there were eight poor here.

The principal families here, have been those of Pomeroy, Aure, or de Aure, Spurrier, Quircke, Short, and Snow.

In Domesday Book, the manor of Oare, then written *Are*, is entered as belonging to Ralph de Pomerei, afterward Pomeroy, and is thus described :—

“Ralph de Pomerei holds ARE. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and it was assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for six ploughs. There are two ploughs in demesue and four bondmen; and seven villans and five bordars have four ploughs. There are two acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of wood. There is a pasture two miles long, and one mile broad. It is worth thirty shillings.

“This manor pays by custom twelve sheep annually

to the king's manor of Carhampton. Ralph de Pomerei retains this custom."²³

In the Exeter Domesday, it is added that Ralph has half a hide in demesne, and the villans half a hide. He has there twenty bullocks, and one hundred sheep. When he received this manor, it was worth twenty shillings.²⁴

This Ralph de Pomerei was one of those persons who came into England with William Duke of Normandy, and was rewarded for his services with many manors, particularly in the county of Devon, where his posterity were seated at a place, called from them BERRY-POMEROY, and where they continued until the reign of Henry V.; but they had parted with the manor of Oare before that period.

To this Ralph de Pomeroy succeeded William (2) his son, (called Joel de Pomeroy by Sir W. Pole) who married the sister of Reginald Earl of Cornwall, by whom he had Henry, (3) who, in the twelfth of Henry II. (1166) on the payment of the aid for marrying that king's daughter, certified his knight's fees to be in number thirty-one and a half, a twenty-sixth and twenty-eighth part. He died about the ninth of John, leaving issue by Maud de Vitrei, his wife, one son Henry.

Which Henry, (4) on the payment of six hundred marks had livery of his lands, and in the sixteenth of

²³ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 96. b.

²⁴ Exon. Domesday, folio 324.

John was joined with John de Erleigh in the governorship of the castle of Exeter, and sheriffalty of the county of Devon. In the following year, when the barons took up arms against the king, this Henry preserved his loyalty to that monarch, and obtained a grant of all the lands belonging to Roger de Raymes in Devonshire. After this it appears that he joined the barons against the king, but soon made his submission; and in the eighteenth of the same reign, on giving security for his future fidelity, the king commanded that he should have restitution of his lands, which had been seized; and also he had livery of the lands of Andrew Vitrei in Cornwall. He died in the sixth of Henry III. leaving issue, another

Henry de Pomeroy, (5) who, on coming of age, in the sixteenth of Henry III., and doing his homage, had livery of his lands, but died in the twenty-first of the same reign; for in that year Margaret [de Vernon] his widow, on the payment of four hundred marks, obtained a grant of the wardship of his heir, whose name was Henry, and also of his lands, and an assignment of her dowry.

In the forty-second of Henry III. this last-mentioned Henry (6) had summons, amongst other great men of that time, to fit himself with horse and arms, and to attend the king at Chester, to oppose the hostilities of the Welsh. After this it appears that he was in arms against the king in the rebellion under Simon Montfort; for in the forty-eighth of the same reign, he

obtained pardon for his actings therein. But in the following year he was again in arms, in opposition to his sovereign, when his lands were seized under an extent from the crown. In the fifth of Edward I., (1277) he was summoned to perform military service in person against Llewellyn, Prince of Wales ; and to attend the muster before the constable and marshal at Worcester on the first of July, and again at Carmarthen on the fifteenth of the same month ; in pursuance of which summons he acknowledged the service of one knight's fee in Berry, performed by himself. He departed this life in the ninth of Edward I., (1281) leaving issue.

Henry (7) his son and heir, then sixteen years of age. His wardship was granted to Geoffrey de Camville, whose daughter, Amicia, he had married, and in the fifteenth of Edward I., on coming of age, he was released from the payment of the scutage of Wales, by reason that he had been personally in the king's army there, namely in the tenth year of that reign, although he was then in his minority. In the twenty-third of Edward I. (1294) he was summoned from the county of Devon to perform military service against the Welsh, and to attend the muster and military council at Worcester, on the twenty-first of November. In the twenty-fifth of the same reign (1297), he was returned from the county of Cornwall as holding lands or rents to the amount of £20 yearly value and upwards, either *in capite* or otherwise, and

as such was summoned to perform military service in person, with horses and arms in the expedition then made into Flanders, and to attend the muster at London on the seventh of July. On the eighth of September, in the same year, he was summoned to appear with horses and arms, at a military council at Rochester, before Edward, the king's son and lieutenant in England. In the year following, he was summoned from the county of Devon to perform military service in person against the Scots, and to attend the muster at York on the twenty-fifth of May. And in the twenty-seventh of the same reign (1298) he was found to be one of the next heirs of Roger de Valletort. This Henry de Pomeroy died in the twenty-third of Edward I. (1305) leaving Henry, his son and heir, then fourteen years of age. None of the descendants of this Henry (who died in 1305) having ever been summoned to parliament, they ceased to be ranked among the barons of this realm.²⁵

In the "Abbreviatio Placitorum," or Abstract of the Pleadings in the CURIA REGIS, there is the following

²⁵ By an inquisition taken in the fourth of Edward I. the jurors say that the suit of the half-tithing of Aune had been withdrawn from the Hundred of Somerton fifteen years before, in the time that Thomas Stikberd was bailiff of the same hundred, to the loss of the king of one shilling annually. [But can this refer to this parish of Oare?]

"Dicunt quod di. The^s de Aune subtraxit sectam ad Hundr. de Sumerton jam xv. annis elaps. & subtracta fuit ista secta tempore Thomæ Stikberd tunc Ballivi de Sumerton ad dampnum dni. R. per ann. de xij. d."—*Ref. Hund.* vol. ii. p. 172. & 135. 4 Edw. I. Sumers.

account of certain legal proceedings between the Prior of Merton and this Henry de Pomeroy.

In the twenty-sixth of Edward I. (1298) the Prior of Merton departed from his writ against Henry de Pomeroy in a plea which acquitted him of the service that Ralph, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, had required from him against the form of a certain fine first levied by Henry de la Pomeroy, in the fifty-second of Henry III. which he sometime exchanged; that is to say, that the Abbot remitted to the said Henry lands in Berry, which manor belonged to the said Henry, except the advowson of the church of Berry and four acres there. And the said Henry, by this acknowledgment, remitted to the said Abbot the manor of Rauntayne, the advowson of the churches of Ashcomb, Clistwick, St. Lawrence of Exeter, and of Berry; the advowson of the church of Aure in the county of Somerset, and the advowson of the Priory of Tregony in the county of Cornwall, all the premises having formerly appertained to the Abbey of Valle, in Normandy.

26 Edward I.—Prior de Merton recedit a brevi suo versus Henr. de Pomeray de placito quod acquietet eum de Serviciis que ab eo exigebat Rad. Com. Glouc. et Hertford contra formam censualium finis prius per Henr. de la Pomeraye levati anno 52 Hen. III. modo escamb. (vid.) quod abbas remittit dicto Henr. Terras in Berye (quod manerium fuit ipsius Henr.) except. advoc. Eccl. de Berye et 4 acr. ibidem. Et idem Henr. per hac recogn., etc., remittit dicto Abbi, manerium de Rauntayne, advoc. Ecclesiarum de Ayecumb,

Clystwyk, Sc. Laur. Exon. et de Berye; advoc. Eccl. de Aure in Com. Somers. et advoc. Prior. de Tregonye in Com. Cornub. Que omnia premiss. olim spectabant Abbi. de Valle in Normannia, etc. (Aliquid inde in term. Hill. an. 27. rot. 29. et term. Pasch. an. 27. rot 18.)²⁶

27 Edw. I.—Scire fac. Henr. fil. et heredi Henr. de Pomeroy quare non teneat conventu. factam inter patrem suum quer. et Gilbertum Priorem de Mertoune deforc. per finem levatu. anno 50 Hen. III. pro terris in Worthy Berry que predict. prior recogn. esse jus dict. Henr. per qua recognicoe. idem Henr. recogn. manerium de Kanuncayne in Com. Devon. et advoc. ecclesiar. de Ayscomb, Clistwyk, Sci. Laur. Exon. et de Bery, et advoc. eccles. de Aure in Com. Somers. et advoc. Priori de Tregony in Com. Cornub. esse jus dicti prioris, etc. Et quare distringit dictum Priorem ad respondend. in Cur. ipsius Henr. in Bruges, etc.²⁷

Henry de Pomeroy (7) Son of Henry (6) married Joan, daughter of John Lord Moels, by whom he had issue, Henry, (8) William, Nicholas, Thomas, and John, which last-mentioned John had a son named Edward. Henry, the eldest, (8) was living in the twelfth of Edward III., (1338) and in the forty-second of the same reign. He left issue one son, Sir John de Pomeroy, who married Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Merton, and relict of John Bampfylde, esq.; and two daughters, Joan the wife of Sir James Chidleigh, and Margaret the wife of Adam Cole. Sir John died in the first of Henry VI., without issue,

²⁶ Abbrev. Placitor. 26 Edw. I. rot. 19. p. 238.

²⁷ Abbrev. Placitor. 27 Edw. I. rot. 29. p. 294.

and in him the eldest branch of this family became extinct.²⁸

FAMILY OF AURE, OR DE AURE.

After the Pomeroy's the manor of Oare seems to have been the inheritance of a family, who assumed their local surname from this village. They appear to have first been brought into notice by John de Aure marrying the daughter and heiress of Odo de Wandestrax of Wanstraw, near Frome, with whom, according to the Testa de Nevill, he held half a knight's fee of the King *in capite*,²⁹ which half a knight's fee was parcel of the earldom of Moreton.

In the fortieth of Henry III., (1254) this John de Aure was sheriff of the counties of Somerset and Dorset, and keeper of the castle of Sherborne,³⁰ and two years afterward he occurs as witness to a charter.

In the nineteenth and twentieth of Henry III., the same John de Aure was one of the collectors of the scutage of those years, and paid thirteen shillings and four-pence for half a knight's fee held by him of the King *in capite*.³¹

²⁸ This account of the family of Pomeroy has been compiled from Sir William Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i.—Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs, vol. i.—and Sir W. Pole's Collections for Devonshire.

²⁹ John de Aure cum herede Odon de Wandestr. di. feod. de Rege in capite.—Testa de Nevill, p. 160.

³⁰ In the Rotulorum Originalia, 40 Hen. III., there is this entry :—"R. comissit Joh. de Aure comitat. Somerset et Dorset. custod. quamdiu R. placuerit una cum Castro R. de Shireburn.—Rot. Origin. 40 Hen. III. Rot. 7.

³¹ Testa de Nevill, p. 166.

In the Testa de Nevill, it is said that Ralph de Aure holds STAATH, which was an ancient member of the king's demesne of North-Curry, but it is neither known of whose gift, nor by what services.³¹

In the eighth of Edward II. (1314) we meet with William de Aure as a witness to a deed.

In the thirty-sixth year of Henry VIII. lands here were granted to Francis Byam.

About the year 1678, two-fifth parts of the manor of Oare belonged to the family of Spurrier, from whom it passed by marriage into the possession of Mr. Nicholas Snow, about the year 1750, who, at his death, left it to a son of his own name, who, in 1788, purchased the other three-fifths; and deceasing in 1791, he bequeathed this manor to his youngest son, John Snow, who, dying without issue, left it to his nephew, Mr. Nicholas Snow, the present possessor.

The other three-fifth parts of this manor, about the time above-mentioned, belonged to a family of the name of QUIRCKE, and from them passed into the family of SHORT, of whom the late John Short, esq., was the last possessor; whose representatives, disagreeing about the division of his property, appealed to the Court of Chancery, and under an order of which court, it was sold, and purchased, as we have already mentioned, by the late Mr. Nicholas Snow.

³¹ Rad. de Aure tenet STAATH et fuit membrum antiquitus de dominico domini R. de Cury nascimus quo dono vel servicio.—*Testa de Nevill*, p. 163.

A feudatory rent or acknowledgment of seven shillings and four-pence per annum is paid out of this manor to Dunster Castle.

The following gentlemen are owners of freeholds in this parish, namely, Mr. Robert Griffiths, Mr. Walter Snow, Mr. James Smith, and Mr. Phelps.

In the Domesday Survey of the Manor of Oare, it is said that there is a pasture two miles long and one mile broad. The word, which is here translated *mile*, is, in Domesday Book, *leuca*. "The *Leuca*," says Mr. Ellis,³² "was most commonly applied to wood-land. [It, however, frequently occurs in Somersetshire, as the measure of pasture land.] The *Leuca*, *Leuga*, *Leuua*, according to the Register of Battle Abbey, consisted of four hundred and eighty perches, or twelve quarenteines. Ingulphus, however, who is good authority, speaks of the *Leuca* as a mile. The ordinary mile of England, it will be remembered, in former times, was more of a traditionary [or estimated] than an ascertained measure. It was nearly a mile and a half of the present standard."

It must not be forgotten that *Leuua* or *Leuga* has another meaning in a few entries of the Domesday Survey. The *Leuua* or *Lowr*, as it is called, of Tunbridge Castle, in Kent, is noticed in Domesday, and meant the district round the manor and castle, which is even at the present day called the Lowr of Tunbridge.

See a particular account of the "*Leuga* S. Wilfridi," in Yorkshire, D. B., vol. i., fo. 303. The "*Carucata* S. Johis libera a Geldo Regis," in Beverley, *ibid*, fo. 304, four hundred and eighty perches, or twelve quarenteines, was the same thing.

In Domesday Book it is said, that the manor of Oare pays by custom twelve sheep annually to the king's manor of Carhampton.

³² Introd. to D. B. p. li.

The custom of paying so many sheep obtained at the same period in the following manors in this county. It would seem that our Anglo-Saxon kings, when they granted a manor or lands to their subjects, reserved in many instances a rent in kind; and that the sheep so paid by custom were a sort of quit-rent or acknowledgment of the tenure by which they held lands of the sovereign.

In some instances the rent in kind was so many sheep, and from every freeman in the manor, a blome of iron; but this must presuppose some iron-works in or upon the lands, to enable the freemen to make a return of that metal. These instances are strong proofs of the scarcity of money in the Anglo-Saxon period of our history.

There is paid to the king's manor of Williton from Alured de Ispania's manor of Monk-Silver, by custom, eighteen sheep annually. This custom did not belong to Williton in the time of King Edward.³³

The Earl of Moriton's manor of Brushford formerly paid by custom to the king's manor of Dulverton, twenty-four sheep annually; but Malger, who holds Brushford of that earl, now withholds this custom.³⁴

There is due by custom from the manor of Bickenhall to the king's manor of Curry, five sheep, with all their lambs.³⁵

The manor of Crewkerne, in the time of King Edward, paid by annual custom to the king's manor of South Petherton, six sheep, with all their lambs. Turstin holds Crewkerne of the Earl of Moriton; but this custom was discontinued after the earl became seized of that manor.³⁶

The Earl of Moriton's manor of Brede owes by custom to the king's manor of Curry, one sheep, with its lamb.³⁷

The same earl's manor of Donyat owes by custom to the king's manor of Curry, five sheep, with their lambs.³⁸

One of the manors in Hatch [Beauchamp] which Bollo held, owed by custom to the king's manor of [North] Curry, one sheep, with its lamb.³⁹

³³ Ex. D. vol. 1. fo. 86. b.

³⁴ Ibid. fo. 86. b.

³⁵ Ibid. fo. 92.

³⁶ Ibid. fo. 86. col. 2.

³⁷ Ibid. fo. 92. col. 1.

³⁸ Ibid. col. 2.

³⁹ Ibid.

The Earl of Moriton's manor of Bradon owes by custom two sheep, with their lambs, to the king's manor of [North] Curry.⁴⁰

Ralph de Limesi's manor of Allerford pays by custom twelve sheep per annum to the king's manor of Carhampton.⁴¹

In the time of King Edward, the bishop of Salisbury's manor of Seaborough paid by annual custom to the manor of Crewkerne, twelve sheep, with their lambs.⁴²

⁴⁰ Ex. D. vol. 1. fo. 92. col. 2.

⁴¹ Ibid. fo. 97.

⁴² Ibid. fo. 87. b.

CULBONE, OTHERWISE KITNORE.

DESCRIPTION.—ROMANTIC SITUATION OF CULBONE.—WOODS.—
MOUNTAIN-ASH.—LORD KING'S COTTAGE.—RECTORY.—CHURCH.
—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—MANOR.

THE Parish of Culbone, otherwise Kitnore, lies about nine miles west from Minehead, on the southern coast of the Bristol Channel, along which it stretches from west to east; and is bounded on the land side by the parishes of Oare and Porlock. It contains about four hundred acres of inclosed arable and pasture lands, some sheep-walks in common, and a considerable portion of wood land, mostly oak coppice.

The ancient name of this parish is KITNORE,⁴³ sometimes written KYTENORE; that of *Culbone* having obtained in more recent times, from the name of the Saint to whom the parish church is dedicated.

⁴³ Kytanore, from the Anglo-Saxon *Cyta*, plural *Cytan*, the same as the Latin *cavum*, *latebra*, a cell, cave, or cavern; and *Ore*, the same as the Latin *littus*, the sea-shore; that is, the place of caves, or caverns, subterraneous dwellings, or more properly, hiding-places on the sea-shore.

This is a mountainous country, with a high, bold, rocky shore towards the sea ; in these rocks are deep clefts, forming small valleys, ascending irregularly inland, and clothed with wood. In the most easterly valley, which is about six hundred feet above the level of the sea, in a very small grassy plain of not more than a quarter of an acre in extent, stands the church, surrounded by hills of considerable altitude, on every side, except towards the sea ; these hills, covered with wood to their very summits, entirely exclude the rays of the sun from this plain for more than three months in the year.

There are three cottages standing just outside the church-yard, and a road, leading from Porlock through this parish to the village of Yearnor, winds round it. This road is now passable for carriages from Porlock-quay to the church of Culbone ; it is in some places very precipitous and highly romantic ; ascending from the eastern base of a woody hill, whose northern side rests upon some stupendous rocks overhanging the sea ; this road passes near Ashley Lodge, a summer-residence of Lord King's, in the parish of Porlock, and thence to Culbone church. From this road, which is perfectly safe, are many grand and beautiful views. It has only been passable for carriages a few years, having before been rugged and dangerous.

The farmers here are principally employed in breeding the same kinds of stock as is described in our

account of the parish of Oare. The Oak coppice wood, of which there are many hundred acres in this and the adjoining parishes, is of considerable value, and is generally sold when it has attained about twenty years' growth. It yields from five to twenty pounds an acre, according to its situation and quality; but about forty years ago, it was worth very little in this parish; the road above-mentioned was then in so bad a state, that a horse with long crooks could not travel upon it. The bark of these oak trees was at that time made up into bundles, and tied with ropes on the backs of the horses to be brought down. A respectable tanner, of the name of Giles, who resided and carried on his business at that time near Porlock, was in the habit of sending a party of ten or twelve men into these woods, during the bark season, to rip the trees, for which he paid the lord of the manor one shilling a man per day for as many days as they were employed, as a compensation for all the oak bark, which they and his two sons, for whom he did not pay any thing, could strip off.

In Warner's Walk through some of the Western Counties, (1800), there is the following glowing description of this romantic village:—

“After continuing five or six miles on these hills, with a noble view, always before us, of the sea and the coast of Wales, which now began to fade away in the distance, we turned our steps towards the coast, and descended a rapid steep to CULBONE. The approach

to Culbone church is by a small foot-path, narrow, rugged, and so declivitous, that it is with the utmost difficulty a footing can be kept. A gloomy mantle of wood covers this steep, and nearly excludes the light of day. After a descent of about six hundred feet, the path terminated, and introduced to our view Culbone church and church-yard, situated in as extraordinary a spot, as man, in his whimsicality, ever fixed on for a place of worship.

“A small cove, of an oval form, opened upon us, the bottom of which is formed by a little verdant carpet of two or three acres. Around this hollow, the hills on every side, save on that which is next to the sea, tower up in a direction nearly perpendicular, to the sublime height of twelve or thirteen hundred feet, fretted with jutting rocks, and laden with venerable woods. *Here* the solemn shade of the oak is relieved by the bright berry of the mountain-ash;“ and *there*

“The Mountain-Ash, *Sorbus aucuparia*, mixing with the dark fir and waving birch, produces on these high hills a fine effect. In summer, the light green tint of their foliage; and in autumn the glowing berries which hang clustering upon them, contrast beautifully with the deeper green of the fir.

In ancient days, when superstition held that place in society, which dissipation and immorality now hold, the mountain-ash was considered as an object of great veneration. Often at this day, a stump of it is found in some old burying-place; or near the circle of a Druid temple, whose rites it formerly invested with its sacred shade.—GILPIN's *Forest Scenery*, vol. i. p. 38.

This tree may, to this day, says Mr. Lightfoot, be observed to grow more frequently than any in the neighbourhood of the Druidical circles, so often seen in North-Britain; and superstitious persons still believe that any small part of it carried about them, will prove a sovereign charm against all the effects of enchantment or witchcraft. The dairy-maid will not forget to drive

the light satin of the airy birch is chastised by the gloom of the melancholy yew; whilst the feathering

her cattle to the summer pastures with a rod of the mountain-ash (called provincially the *Ross* tree, and the *Wicking* tree; that is, the Witching tree), which she carefully lays up, and drives them home again with the same. In Strathspey, they make on the first of May, a hoop with the wood of this tree, and in the evening and morning cause all the sheep and lambs to pass through it.

In Wales, says Mr. Evelyn, this tree is reputed so sacred, that as there is not a church-yard without one of them planted in it, so on a certain day in the year, every person religiously wears a cross made of the wood; and it is reputed to be a preservative against fascinations and evil spirits, whence, perhaps, we call it *Witching*, or *Wicking* tree, the boughs being stuck about the house, or the wood used for walking-sticks.—EVELYN'S *Sylva*, c. 15. It is curious to remark how the same superstitions have been driven with the ancient inhabitants into the remote corners of our island so distant from each other as Scotland and Wales.—MILLER'S *Botanical Dict.* vol. ii. under *SORBUS*.

It is wonderful to observe the progress and effects of superstition in the different ages of society. Anciently, a legion of wizards and witches could be kept in awe by the sight of a sprig of quick-beam, the wicking (witching) tree; nay, even Lucifer himself, would keep at a respectful distance if you only wore a sprig of it in your cap, or about your person. But mark the difference in modern times! On reading over the above note before I sent it to the printer, to a friend who resides at Carhampton, he related the following adventure, which occurred to himself a few days previously:—"Whilst I was looking over an estate belonging to a gentleman in this neighbourhood, said my friend, attended by a labourer of the adjoining village, before I mounted my horse, I cut a couple of twigs from one of the quick-beam trees in the hedge, which I meant to use as horse-rods, when the following dialogue took place:—

Lab. Lord blessee zur, hot a be gwahing to do we they?

Fr. Going to do with them? why, to beat my horse with, and I shall carry them home.

Lab. Dooantee, zur, dooantee; why they be quick-beam!

Fr. I know they are; but what of that?

Lab. Hot a that, zur! dooantee know they be mortal unlucky."

So that the evil spirit, it seems, must now be conciliated, not affrighted; for it is dangerous to provoke wizards and witches by the sight of quick-beam, for fear of mischievous consequences; the charm being lost in the increased liberality, or, if the reader pleases, the march of intellect, of the present day.

fir and luxuriant beech lend their contrasting foliage to give a wider variety to the enchanting scene. At the mouth of the cove, the land suddenly falls to the shore, in an abrupt descent of four or five hundred feet, rugged with the enormous crags of rock, but enlivened with verdure and foliage quite to the beach.

“In the centre of the little recess, thus surrounded and defended from the intrusion of the stranger, stands the little church of Culbone ; one of the least, if not the very least, in the kingdom ; a Gothic structure, thirty-three feet in length, and twelve feet in breadth, with a church-yard of proportionate dimensions stretching around it, appropriately ornamented with broken modest grave-stones, and the remains of an ancient stone cross. Two cottages planted just without the consecrated ground, are its only companions in this secluded dell.

“Surely never was a spot better calculated for the indulgence of the meditative faculty than Culbone church-yard. Every circumstance around leads the mind to thought, and soothes the bosom to tranquillity. The deep murmur of the ocean tide rising from beneath, but softened in its lengthened course, falls gently on the ear, which lists with equal rapture to the broken mysterious whisper of the waving woods above. He will here, in the pure spirit of generous patriotism, breathe an aspiration to Heaven, nearly similar to the beautifully figurative language of Solomon:—

"Oh! that the winter were past; that the rains were over and gone! that the fig-tree would put forth her green figs; and the vines with the tender grape would give a good smell! that the flowers would appear on the earth; the time of the singing-birds come; and the voice of the turtle be heard once more in our land."

"At nobis Pax alma, veni, spicamque teneto,

"Perfuat et homis candidus ante sinus."

"Difficult of access as Culbone church is, it has, notwithstanding, regular service performed in it by the minister of Porlock, who journies thither on a small poney, for no carriage can approach it,⁴⁵ by a narrow devious path of frightful declivity, which skirts in a zig-zag direction along the clift that rises from the channel below. His congregation, indeed, is not very numerous, for the whole parish does not contain more than ten houses, and forty-five inhabitants; of these none reside near the church at present, owing, it may be presumed, to the obvious inconvenience of the situation. Quiet and sequestered as this romantic spot at present is, it has heretofore borne an honourable name in the annals of rustic revelry; its rocks have echoed to the shouts of multitudinous mirth; and its woods rung with the symphonious music of all the neighbouring village bands;—in plain English, a revel or fair was wont to be held here in times of yore.

⁴⁵ When I was at Culbone in September, 1828, with my friend Mr. Strong, the Rev. Mr. Passmore told us, that on the Sunday morning preceding, two peers of the realm, Lord King and Earl Fortescue, attended divine service in this little church.—J. S.

“The road to Lord King’s cottage, *Ashley Lodge*, creeps through the woods which clothe the steep cliffs to the eastward of Culbone, and presents at every step, a variety of curious plants, the rare production of these romantic regions; *silene amoena*,⁴⁶ *veronica montana*, *polypodium aculeatum*, *polypodium dryopteris*, bird’s-nest orchis,⁴⁷ yellow rein-deer moss, &c. &c., and an immense quantity of whortleberry plants, full of their cool, refreshing, delicious fruit. His lordship’s house is placed, like an eagle’s nest, in the cleft of a rock. The rough slope that forms the western extremity of Porlock Bay, is the spot chosen for this singular mansion. Half way up this steep, a level platform has been made with great labour and proportionate expense, about a quarter of an acre perhaps in extent, and a small castellated dwelling erected upon it. The thick woods which cover the face of this abrupt descent, are here cleared away, and a beautiful view opened of Porlock Bay, the town, and the Bristol Channel. This, indeed, is the only charm which it possesses. The road to it is difficult and hazardous; the precipice rising four or five hundred feet behind it, threatens, the first severe frost, to overwhelm it with destruction; and the abrupt

⁴⁶ The plant which some of our botanists took for this, and which Linnæus made to be a variety of his *Cucubalus Behen*, is the *lychnis maritima repens* of Caspar Bauhine and Ray; and *Silene maritima* of Withering and Smith.—MILLER.

⁴⁷ Miller says that this plant is a doubtful native of Britain. The whole plant as it appears above ground, is of a violet or deep purple colour.

descent before and on each side of it, matted by impenetrable woods, confines the inhabitant to a small area of about twenty yards square. Picking our way through these shaggy shades, we descend to Porlock-quay, which stretches close along the shore."

Akenside finely alludes to the religious awe, with which woods, boldly stretching up the summit of a high mountain, are beheld by persons of cultivated imagination :—

Mark the sable woods,
That shade sublime yon mountain's nodding brow.
With what religious awe the solemn scene
Commands your steps ! as if the reverend form
Of Minos, or of Numa, should forsake
Th' Elysian seats, and down the embowering glade
Move to your pausing eye.

Woodcocks are found in these woods in great numbers at the proper season, but the sportsman should have a great many dogs, and must stand in some convenient place and shoot at such birds as come within his range ; to follow the dogs, if possible, would be a work of great toil, and perhaps danger. Game, generally, is plentiful in this neighbourhood ; and the woods we have been speaking of, are noted harbours for the red deer of Exmoor Forest.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and is in the patronage of Lord King. It is valued in the king's books at £3 18s. 10½d., and is discharged from the payment of tenths, the clear yearly value

having been certified at £22 1s. 4d. In 1694, John Fry, esq. presented to this living. In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, there are the following particulars relating to this benefice :—

1535. John Harryson, Rector.

Annual value of the demesne or glebe lands.....	0	6	8
Predial tithes.....	1	18	8
Oblations and personal tithes	1	17	2
	<hr/>		
	4	2	6

Out of which there is paid to the archdeacon of Taunton for syno- dals.....	...	0	3	7½
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£3 18 10½

The church is a small Gothic building, thirty-three feet in length, and twelve feet in width, consisting of a single aisle, chancel and porch, covered with Cornish slate. It has no tower; but there are two bells hung in the arch of a little pinnacle. The register begins in 1686, but is very imperfect. In 1686, the Rev. Elias Falvey was rector. The present rector (1829) is the Rev. John Boyce.

A wake, or as it is called in this part of the country, a revel, used to be held annually in Culbone church-yard; but it has been discontinued many years.⁴⁸

⁴⁸ The reader will find in Warner's "Walk through some of the Western Counties," an account of a humorous adventure of a Somersetshire son of Crispin, in connection with this revel.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £10 11s. 3d.; and in 1785, £13 13s. 10d. In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates, was £18 18s. 10½d., at 3s. 4d. in the pound. In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, with part of the hamlet of Yearnor, as assessed to the property tax, was £391.—In 1818, the county rate was 8s. 1½d.

In 1801, the resident population of this parish was 56.

In the population abstract of 1821, the return for Culbone stands thus:—Number of inhabited houses, 10; of families, 11; of whom 6 were employed in agriculture. Total number of persons, 45; of whom 20 were males and 25 females.—Decrease in twenty years, 11.

In 1815, there were 3 poor in this parish.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons in 1818, the Rev. H. M. Passmore stated that there was no school in this parish for the education of the children of the poor.

The manor of Kitnore is thus described in Domesday Book:—

“Drogo holds of the Bishop of Coutances CHETENORE. In the time of King Edward, it was assessed to the Geld for one hide and one virgate of Land.

The arable is sufficient for two ploughs. There are two villans and one bordar, who have one plough. There is one bondman; fifty acres of pasture, and one hundred acres of wood. It is worth fifteen shillings. The two manors of Winemersham (now Winsham) and Chetenore, were held by Osmund in the time of King Edward."

In the Exeter Domesday it is added, that Drogo had here one hide and one plough in demesne, and the villans had one virgate. When the bishop of Coutances received this manor, it was worth only five shillings: Osmund, the former owner, is called Osmund Estramin.⁴⁹

Geoffrey, bishop of Coutances, a diocese in Normandy, held seventy manors in the county of Somerset. He was chief justiciary of England, and presided in the county court held at Pinnenden Heath, in Kent, at the great trial between Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, and Odo, Bishop of Bayeux.

The bishop of Coutances, is said to have been descended from a noble family in Normandy. He was much more skilful in arms than in divinity; in the knowledge of training up soldiers, than of leading his proper flock in the paths of Christian peace. He had a distinguished command in the battle of Hastings; and for his signal services was highly rewarded by the Conqueror; having no less than two hundred and

⁴⁹ Exon Domesday, fo. 129.

eighty lordships in England given him by the King. He was likewise in many other battles against the English and Danes, and being always successful obtained immense possessions. He died in 1093, and his estates escheating to the crown were disposed of to different favourites.

Previously to the 26th of Edward I., the manor of Culbone, then called Kytenore, had been included by encroachment within the boundary of the forest of Exmoor, but in that year it was disafforested, according to the tenor of the charter of forests, and entirely freed from the oppressive restrictions of the forest laws.

In the time of King Edward I. we find the owners of this manor assuming the local surname, for in a commission for perambulating the forest of Exmoor, in the twenty-sixth of that king, the name of William *de Kytenore* occurs, as lord of the manor of Culbone.

After the above-mentioned William de Kytenore, this manor passed into the family of Bratton or Bracton.

In the 16th of Richard II., Peter Bratton is certified to hold it of John de Raleghe, as of his manor of Alrington, by military service, and was succeeded in it by Thomas his son and heir. Which Thomas was ancestor of John Bratton, lord of this manor in the time of Edward IV. who was father of several children, of whom John the eldest had Kytenore. To him succeeded John, Simon, and John, all of them possessors of this place.

By an inquisition taken in the -6th of Henry VI., Walter Pauncefoot (the heir of Henry Sydenham) and William Bachell are certified to hold separately half a knight's fee here, which Maurice de Kytenore formerly held.

The present owner of this manor is Lord King.

PORLOCK.⁵⁰

GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND MODERN STATE OF THE PARISH.—INVASION OF THE "LIDWICCIANS."—INCURSION OF EARL HAROLD.—ACCOUNT OF THE EARLS OF MERCA.—RECTORY.—CHURCH.—MONUMENTS.—HISTORY OF CROSS-LEGGED AND TABLE MONUMENTS.—CHANTRY.—ORIGIN OF CHANTRIES.—CROSSES.—CHURCHYARDS.—YEW TREES.—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—MANOR.—DOMESDAY SURVEY.—FAMILY OF REDVERS.—OF FITZ-ROGES.—OF LORD KING.—HAMLETS.—BOSSINGTON.—YEARNOR.—WEST-PORLOCK.—PORLOCK WEAR.—BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—JOHN BRIDGWATER.—DR. STEPHEN HALES.

PORLOCK, or as it is sometimes called, East-Porlock, is a small sea-port, market-town, and parish, on the southern coast of the Bristol Channel, seven miles west from Minehead, thirty-three west from Bridgewater, and one hundred and sixty-seven west by south from London. This parish is bounded on the north and north-west by the Bristol Channel, on the east by the parishes of Selworthy and Luccombe, on the south

⁵⁰ Porlock, the inclosed Port—from the Anglo-Saxon *Port*, a harbour; and *Loc*, the same as the latin *claudere*, to shut up, to surround or encompass. Serenius deduces the latter word from the Gothic *lutan*, and the Anglo-Saxon *lutan*, to shut up, to close.

by the parish of Stoke-Pero, and on the west by those of Oare and Culbone. A narrow slip of land, part of the parish of Luccombe, runs across that of Porlock, quite down to the sea, dividing it into two parts, so that the inhabitants of the eastern part cannot go to their parish church without crossing the narrow slip above-mentioned, in the parish of Luccombe. The greater part of the houses form two straggling streets near the church. Many of the old houses are built with their chimneys towards the street, a mode of building, tradition says, common in this and other parts of Somersetshire, about the period of the civil war in the reign of Charles I.; and adopted for the purpose of protecting the inhabitants from the prying eyes or secret attacks of evil-disposed persons of an opposite party. Many of these houses are built of rough stones, or of what is called in the west of England, *cob*; that is, a composition of clay and straw well mixed together, with which a wall is formed, and after it is dry it is made smooth on the surface.

The parish of Porlock contains about one thousand six hundred acres of inclosed land, and some very extensive commons. There are four hamlets belonging to it, namely, Bossington, Yearnor, West-Porlock, and Porlock-Wear; and it is divided into three tithings, namely, Porlock, Yearnor, and Bossington. The principal landed proprietors are Lord King, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart. and Admiral Douglas.

In this parish there is a beautiful plain, being the

inner section of what may be called a semi-circle, between a place a little below Porlock-Wear and Bossington Point, where the coast is high, bold, and rugged; the outer section being that part of the Bristol Channel called Porlock Bay. The circumference of this plain, as you enter the Bay, appears to be bounded by high hills: some of them, especially towards the west, are covered with hanging woods; others are cultivated, and more consist of extensive wilds of heath; but on landing, and proceeding to the interior, you discover that there are several valleys running up between them, some of which contain fine meadows, whilst their sides are cultivated to a considerable height, or are cloathed with oak woods. In the centre of the plain there is a large sheet of water, covering many acres of ground, called the Decoy Pond, which is frequented by wild fowl; but if ever there was a decoy here, which it may be supposed from the name there once was, there is not one now. The soil of this plain is generally very good and well cultivated; and the appearance of the town, the hamlets, and the bay, from the hills above, is remarkably pleasing.

About forty degrees from the eastern point of the semi-circle, and close under the high lands; where a valley runs up, stands the ancient town of Porlock, and through it runs the road leading from Minehead to Lymouth, a singularly romantic watering place in the county of Devon, about twelve miles west of Porlock. The trade of the town comprises the usual

agricultural businesses, a few shops, some malt-houses, a tan-yard, and three or four inns; of which the principal is the *Castle*, the worthy host of which is a fine specimen of the punning humour of Caleb Quotem of dramatic celebrity.

Before machinery was so generally employed in the preparation of our manufactures, a considerable quantity of yarn of very excellent quality, was spun by hand in this parish, and in the neighbourhood, which was carried to the then celebrated market of Dunster, and there sold. Such families as were so employed were here called factors; an appellation which some of them and their descendants still retain. If it be true, as political economists tell us, that our machinery has increased the wealth and political power of the country; it is equally true that it has deprived the industrious inhabitants of this, and many [other places, of comparatively great means and comforts, and transferred them and their descendants to the close confinement and diseased atmosphere of some large and crowded factory; and those who have ever seen a large factory pour out its living hives, marked their sickly appearance, and truly considered their wretched state, cannot fail to regret the consequences of the change.

There are three markets held at Porlock every year, principally for the sale of store cattle and the small breed of sheep mentioned in our account of the parish of Oare, called *Porlocks*. The agriculture of this parish partakes both of the high and the low land

systems, according to the local situation of the lands. Some of the farmers keep large flocks of sheep on the hills; but, for want of winter food, are obliged to send them further up the country, to the lawn in front of Dunster castle; especially many of their lambing ewes to yeau. The mutton of a Porlock sheep, well fed, is excellent and much-prized.

The road from Minehead to Porlock would have been called good, even before Mr. Mac Adam's excellent system was introduced; it passes Holnicot, the residence of the Hon. Matthew Fortescue. From Porlock to Lymouth, you ascend a steep hill for nearly two miles; the road in many places being curved to facilitate the ascent; after which it runs over a series of hills, deeply indented with valleys, in some of which are small villages, or scattered houses, until it reaches Countisbury Cliff, where, at a very great acclivity along the edge of a tremendous precipice, it safely descends into Lymouth, which is situated at the gorge of a deep glen, where a river empties itself into the Bristol Channel. The houses here are built by the side of the river and beach; and are overhung on the western side by the precipitous hill, on which stands the village of Linton, with its villas, inns, and humble church and tower from whence the spectator looks down on the scene below, as on a map. The ascent from Lymouth to Linton is by a serpentine road, about half a mile in length. Good chaises and horses may be obtained at the Luttrell Arms Inn, at Dunster,

to convey travellers to Lymouth and Linton. To a person who has health and means, and who delights in the wild beauties of nature in her softer character, a ride or drive over the hills between Porlock and Lymouth, in a fine spring or summer morning or evening, is delightful in the extreme. The ever varying appearance of the mountain track; the dark waters of the Bristol Channel, with here and there a white sail; the murmurs of the waves, rolling along this rocky coast, at intervals falling upon the ear; the long irregular coast of South Wales, with the Mont-Blanc-like appearance of the interior; the bay of Bridgwater; the Holmes; the Severn Sea; Dunkery Hill and Beacon; the bleating of the numerous flocks, seeking or answering their own companions; the hum of bees; the lark's gay carol; the blossom-coloured heath; the fine clear fresh breeze wafting on its viewless wings the aromatic odour of millions of fragrant herbs and flowers, combine to invigorate the spirits, cheer the heart, enliven the fancy, humanize the soul, and raise her thoughts "from nature up to nature's God."

The dialect spoken by the inhabitants of this wild, but beautiful country, is very broad; but the people are generally industrious, hardy, kind, hospitable, and open hearted.

In Warner's "Walk through some of the Western Counties," (1800) the town and neighbourhood of Porlock are thus described:—

“ A long descent introduced me into the little sea-port town of Porlock, shut out from the surrounding country by lofty hills, but open towards the sea, on which it safely looks, from the bottom of a recess or bay, about one league from one extremity to the other. Of these points the eastern one rises with prodigious magnificence from the ocean, whose maddened waves have torn its front into misshapen crags, and scooped its sides into stupendous caverns ; the western extremity is of a softer character, and slopes gradually to the shore, sheltering from the prevalent south-westerly storms, the quay, and a small pier, one mile and a half from Porlock, where the little commerce of the place is transacted.

“ The egress from Porlock to the west is by a steep and fatiguing ascent, drawn out to the distance of at least two miles, and climbing to the summit of the lofty hills which overhang the town on this quarter. Here the swelling downs commence, which spread their undulating surface, like the waves of a solid sea, quite through North Devon, and giving herbage to a small breed of sheep, which produce the most delicious mutton, weighing about eight pounds a quarter. The summits of these hills afford a most abundant supply of heath for fuel. Deep ravines intersect these downy elevations in various directions ; and in their sequestered hollows small villages, or rather little groupings of farm houses, have their unenvied situation.”

In the year 918, a great naval armament, says the *Saxon Chronicle*, came here from the "*Lidwiccians*," that is, from the people of Armorica, now Brittany, in France.⁵¹ Collinson, in his *History of Somerset*, erroneously describes this as an incursion of the Danes. This force was commanded by two earls, Ohter and Rhoald. They sailed round the Land's End, and up the Bristol Channel, and spread ruin and devastation along the opposite coast of Wales. They were afterwards attacked by the men of Hereford and Gloucester, and put to flight, Earl Rhoald being slain, and also the brother of Ohter, with a great number of their followers. King Edward having set a guard on the southern coast of the Bristol Channel, the invaders were not able to make good a landing on that side; nevertheless, says the *Saxon Chronicle*, they eluded the king's guard in the night, by stealing up twice; at one time to the east of Watchet, and at another time to Porlock. The inhabitants of those places, however, gave the invaders so warm a reception that the greater part were cut to pieces, and the few that escaped were obliged to swim to their ships, and take refuge on the island of the Flat Holmes, where many of them died of hunger. Those who survived afterwards sailed to Ireland.⁵²

⁵¹ *Lidwiccians*—from *Lid*, a ship; and *Wiccian*, to watch; because they abode day and night in their ships; or more properly, because they had no residence on land, but lived entirely on board ship.

⁵² *Saxon Chron.* by INGRAM, A. D. 918, p. 133.

In the early history of this part of the county, we find that Porlock had an extensive chase, which probably might, in succeeding times, have been the royal forest of Exmoor. Here also was a palace of one of the Saxon Kings. The latter, in all probability, was destroyed with the town, not many years after, on the following memorable occasion:—Harold, the son of the banished Godwin, earl of Kent, partaking of his father's losses and disgrace, had repaired to Ireland, which it seems had long been the refuge of fugitives, in order to strengthen his party, and to raise troops, with a view of making a piratical descent upon the English coasts.

It may be proper to mention that at this period the town of Porlock was the property of Algar, the son of Leofric, earl of Mercia, between whom and the family of Earl Godwin there existed great animosity, so that this incursion of Harold's may be considered rather in the nature of making private war upon one of his opponents than of a national invasion.

Accordingly about midsummer, 1052, setting sail from that country with nine strong ships, well furnished with men, and arms suitable to his enterprize, Harold crossed the channel, and entered the bay of Porlock. The town, it is to be supposed, had, since the attempt of the "Lidwiccians" been greatly strengthened both with regard to buildings and population, and the natives being likewise apprised of the approach of an enemy, were on this juncture assembled upon the coast, resolved

to defend the place. Harold, however, secured his landing, and marched his men up into the country, where he seized every thing that was valuable, and after slaughtering numbers of the inhabitants, and setting fire to the town, returned to his ships with immense booty.

A small unfinished encampment of an oval form, in a wood one mile and a half south-west from the church, is supposed to have been thrown up on this occasion. The entrance to it is on the south side, and the upper trenches are very deep. Swords and other instruments of war, have been found within its area.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, the manor of Porlock was the property of Algar, earl of Mercia, who, with his father, was greatly instrumental in opposing and thwarting the ambitious designs of Godwin the father of Harold.

The following descent of Earl Leofric and the earls of Mercia, is given by Camden in his *Britannia*, at the end of his description of Leicestershire, on the authority of Thomas Talbot, whom he calls an eminent antiquary; and the same descent is also inserted in the *Monasticon*,⁵³ and in Burton's *History of Leicestershire*.⁵⁴ It is also given in the same manner by Sir William Dugdale in his *History of Warwickshire*.⁵⁵

“Leofric was Earl of Leicester, in the time of Ethelbald, king of Mercia, A. D. 716; to whom succeeded in a direct line, Algar I.; Algar II.; Leofric II.; Leof-

⁵³ vol. i. p. 304.

⁵⁴ p. 167.

⁵⁵ p. 87.

wine ; Leofric III. (earl of Mercia,) who was contemporary with Harold."

"But so easily," says Sir Peter Leycester, in his *Antiquities of Cheshire*,⁵⁶ "doth error spread, being once broached, that I will now shew where that descent is defective.

"Leofric, earl of Leicester lived A. D. 716, in the time of Ethelbald, king of Mercia, as appears by the charter of the said King Ethelbald, granted to the abbey of Croyland, which is given at large in the chronicle of Ingulphus.⁵⁷ But for this Leofric's wife, issue, or successor, no history, or record," says Sir Peter, "makes up the wide breach of descents to the time of Algar I. above-mentioned, containing the period of one hundred and twenty years, or thereabouts. So that this Leofric could not be the father of Algar I., as mentioned by Camden."

Algar I., according to Ingulphus,⁵⁸ was living A. D. 836, and was styled Algar, earl of Leicester, senior, under the reign of Wiglaf, king of Mercia. This Algar was a great benefactor to the Abbey of Croyland.

Algar II. was styled Algar earl of Leicester, junior, son of Earl Algar. He lived in the time of Burgred, king of Mercia, A. D. 860, and was slain by the Danes in battle, in the parts of Kesteven, in Lincolnshire, A. D. 870. Sir Peter Leycester says, that Ingulphus does not style these two Algar, earls of Leicester, although they may be supposed to have been so, but

⁵⁶ p. 99.

⁵⁷ p. 852.

⁵⁸ p. 860.

only Earl Algar, senior and junior; neither does he mention of what family they were.

There is now another great interruption in this descent, namely, from A. D. 870 to A. D. 1000, when Leofwine lived, containing about one hundred and twenty years more, which is filled up by Camden, by only one generation, Leofric the Second.

Leofwine, earl of Leicester, flourished in the reign of King Ethelred, about A. D. 1000. He married and had issue, 1. Leofric, afterwards earl of Mercia, and 2. Norman, one of the principal nobles of Edric Streon, duke of Mercia; which Norman became Protector of Croyland Abbey by covenant, during his lifetime; for which he had the manor of Badby given him for one hundred years, in A. D. 1017, according to Ingulphus,⁵⁹ and Hoveden.⁶⁰ Leofwine had also two other sons, Edwin, slain by Griffith, prince of Wales, A. D. 1039,⁶¹ and Godwin.⁶²

Leofric, the eldest son of Earl Leofwine, was the fifth earl or governor of Mercia. He is sometimes styled earl of Leicester, and sometimes earl of Chester. He was witness to a charter granted by King Canute to the Abbey of Croyland, A. D. 1032, when Canute gave that abbey a gold cup; which charter was subscribed in these words, † Ego Leofricus Comes Concessi. † Ego Algarus filius Leofrici Comititis astiti, etc.⁶³ Hoveden tells us,⁶⁴ that in A. D. 1017, when the traitor Edric

⁵⁹ p. 891, 898.

⁶⁰ p. 437, 442.

⁶¹ Monasticon, vol. i. p. 134.

⁶² Ibid. p. 130.

⁶³ Ingulphus, p. 89.

⁶⁴ p. 437.

Streon was put to death by Canute, there suffered at the same time Duke Norman, son of Duke Leofwine and brother of Earl Leofric; Ethelward, son of Duke Agelmar, and Brictric, son of Alphege, of Devonshire.⁶⁵

This Leofric is said to have had a sister called Ermenilda, whom the Monasticon⁶⁶ calls the mother of Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester; but of the truth of this there are great doubts.

Earl Leofric married Godiva, the sister of Thorold de Buckenhall, sheriff of Lincolnshire.⁶⁷ Sir Peter Leicester says, that it is probable he was descended from that Thorold who is mentioned by Ingulphus,⁶⁸ as *Vice Dominus Lincolnensis*, A. D. 851.

Earl Leofric and his countess Godiva built or greatly enriched the monasteries of Coventry, Wenlock, Worcester, and Evesham, and also the monasteries of St. John Baptist and St. Werburgh, in Chester, and endowed the church of St. Mary Stow, which had been built by Ednoth, bishop of Lincoln.⁶⁹

This is that celebrated lady Godiva, who obtained from her husband a charter, by which the citizens of Coventry were freed from the servile tenure under which they then lived, on condition that she should ride naked upon horseback through the principal streets of that city, which she accordingly did.

Camden, in his *Britannia*, relates this somewhat

⁶⁵ Saxon Chron. by INGRAM, under 1017.

⁶⁶ vol. i. p. 305.

⁶⁷ Ingulphus, p. 913, 914.

⁶⁸ p. 861.

⁶⁹ Florence of Worcester, p. 419.—Hoveden, p. 444.

differently.—Earl Leofric being angry with the citizens, oppressed them with heavy taxes, which he resolved not to lessen. His wife Godiva interceded earnestly with him for their relief, but he remained inexorable, saying that he would not reduce their burdens unless she would consent to ride naked on horseback through the most frequented parts of the city, thinking that she would never comply with such an apparently indecent exposure. She, however, if we may credit common report, rode on horseback through the streets of Coventry covered up with her very long hair, unseen of any, and thus delivered the citizens from a number of taxes for ever.⁷⁰

The Earl Leofric died at his own town of Bromley on the last day of August, A. D. 1057, and was buried at Coventry, in the monastery which he had built there, then the richest in England. He was succeeded by his son, Algar, earl of Mercia, who is mentioned in Domesday Book,⁷¹ as lord of the manor of Porlock in the reign of Edward the Confessor. He is styled by Hoveden,⁷² earl of Mercia; by Huntington,⁷³ earl of Chester; and by Ingulphus,⁷⁴ earl of Leicester. In 1053 the earldom of the East Saxons, which had before been held by Harold the son of Earl Godwin, was given to this Algar. In 1056 he was banished by Edward the Confessor, but by the assistance of Griffith, prince of Wales, who had

⁷⁰ Britan. vol. ii. p. 446.

⁷¹ vol. i. fo. 93.

⁷² p. 444.

⁷³ p. 366.

⁷⁴ p. 898.

married his daughter, he was reconciled to the king and restored to his earldom. Two years afterward he was again banished, but being assisted by the same Prince Griffith, and the Norwegian navy, he recovered his earldom by force. In Burton's *Antiquities of Leicestershire*,⁷⁵ it is said that he married the sister of William Malet, by whom he had two sons, Edwin earl of Mercia, and Morcar, earl of Northumberland; and also two daughters, Alditha, first married to Griffith prince of Wales; and secondly to Harold, king of England; and Lucy, who was thrice married, first, to Ivo Tailbois, earl of Anjou; secondly, to Roger de Romare, son of Gerald de Romare, by whom she had issue William de Romare, in her right earl of Lincoln; and thirdly to Randal de Meschines, Viscount Bayeux in Normandy, lord of Cumberland in England, and afterward earl of Chester, by whom she had also issue, and survived all her husbands. Earl Algar died, A. D. 1059, and was buried at Coventry.

He was succeeded as earl of Mercia, by Edwin, his elder son, who with his brother Morcar, stoutly opposed William duke of Normandy in 1066, but the Conqueror prevailing, Edwin lost his earldom, and about four years afterward the two brothers were treacherously slain.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and is in the patronage of the crown. It is valued in

⁷⁵ p. 168.

the king's books at £18 11s. 6d. The value is given by Collinson, when he wrote, at £140, and by Bacon at £170. At present (1829) this living is worth upwards of £350 per annum.

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, there are the following particulars relating to this benefice:—

1535. Robert Brok, rector.

Annual value of the demesne, or			
glebe lands	3	0	0
Tithes of lamb and wool	3	2	0
Oblations and other casualties	13	12	6
	<hr/>		
	19	14	6

Out of which there is paid to the			
archdeacon of Taunton for pro-			
curations and synodals			
	1	3	0
	<hr/>		

Clear £18 11 6

The church, which is dedicated to St. Dubritius, is an ancient Gothic structure, ninety-six feet in length, and thirty-four in breadth; consisting of a nave, south aisle, chancel, vestry-room, and porch, all covered with slate. The columns are octangular, with capitals in the Saxon style, supporting five bluntly-pointed arches. There is a low tower, at the west end, with the remains of an octagonal spire shingled, the upper part having been blown down in a storm about one hundred and thirty years ago. The tower, with the spire, is seventy feet high, and contains a clock and five bells.

Against the north wall of the chancel, and within

the rails of the communion table, there is fixed the ancient stone altar of this church. It has a border of roses, and in the centre an escutcheon, on which are sculptured the five wounds of Christ.

The earliest register of this parish was found in 1825, concealed in a loft in the house of Mr. H. Phelps; some members of whose family had formerly served the office of churchwarden. In this register the marriages commence in 1618; the burials, in 1622; and the baptisms, in 1625; from which time it appears to have been correctly kept. It was the custom at one period, to enter into the register the quality and circumstances of persons who were buried or had children baptised in the parish, from which entries great changes appear to have taken place in many families; some who were once low having risen to great opulence, whilst others, who were once rich, have experienced reverses, and been reduced to a very humble station.

RECTORS OF PORLOCK.

Adam Bellenden, occurs 1643.

Hamnet Ward,⁷⁶ 1648.

⁷⁶ Dr. Hamnet Ward was a native of Dorsetshire, and had the degree of M. D. conferred upon him at Angers, in France, in 1646. He was rector of Porlock, vicar of Sturminster-Newton, in his own county, and one of the prebendaries of the cathedral church of Wells. He published, I. *The Protestant Soldier fighting under Truth's Banner*, 1642; II. *Sermon preached at Shaftesbury, at the primary visitation of Guy, bishop of Bristol, from Ephesians, ch. iii. v. 8. Lond.* 1674. Dr. Ward also wrote some other things. For more relating to him, see the *Memoir of Dr. Byan, under Lacombe*.

RECTORS OF PORLOCK, *continued*.

W. Mitchell, 1672.

Stephen Hales, res. 1755.

William Moggridge, occurs 1755, died 1763.

Arthur Hele, 1763.

George Pollen, 1763.

Rev. John Pitman, present rector, 1829.

The present curate, the Rev. H. M. Passmore, is in the habit of entering in the register every event of importance that takes place in the parish ; a practice well worthy of imitation by other clergymen.

MONUMENTS IN PORLOCK CHURCH.

On the south wall of the chancel there is a mural monument of stone and black marble, much ornamented with painting, gilding, carved foliage, and scrolls. In the front two detached columns of black marble, with corinthian capitals gilt, support a cornice, at each corner of which is an urn lighted. On the centre of this cornice rises an arched pediment, on which recline two cherubs with wings expanded and gilt. Their left hands support a civic crown, and their right the armorial bearings, namely, *sable*, six martlets, *argent*. On the tablet is this inscription :—

“Subtus inhumatur Nathaniel Arundel, S. T. B. parochiæ de Exford rector, et verè pastor ; cujus erga Deum sincera pietas, erga ecclesiam intrepidus zelus,

erga uxorem amor vix imitabilis, erga pauperes sine ostentatione liberalitas, erga universos sine adulatione urbanitas:—heu quando ullum invenient parem! Plura vetat magnarum virtutum comes verecundia. Hoc igitur omnia breve claudat encomium; vivus amicos habuit homines, moriens conscientiam, mortuus Deum. Ob. 6 id. Feb. salutis humanæ, 1705, ætatis suæ 70. Jana defuncti relicta charissima, necnon reverendi viri Gulielmi Mitchell, hujus ecclesiæ rectoris, filia natu maxima, hoc supremum posuit devinctissimi amoris monumentum.”

Above is this coat; *sable*, six martlets, *argent*, impaling *gules*, a chevron, between three swans proper; for Mitchell.

On the same side of the chancel is a plain mural monument of white marble, thus inscribed:—

“Near this place lies interred the Rev. Mr. William Moggridge, who was rector of this place twenty-nine years, and vicar of Minehead fifty-three; who died March 5, 1763, aged 82.

“Also Frances his wife, who died Feb. 6, 1765, aged 69. And Joan their daughter, who died July 7, 1737, aged 6 years.”

In the wall of the south aisle, under a canopied arch, resting on a platform, a little above the floor, lies the effigy of a knight, in chain armour, or mail, cross-legged, the right leg lying uppermost, his head resting on a cushion, his right hand on the hilt of his sword, and a long shield on the left side, and his feet resting

on the body of a lion. This monument, evidently that of a crusader, probably represents Sir Simon Fitz-Roges, knt., lord of the manor of Porlock in the reign of Richard I., who gave that king a fine of one hundred shillings that he might be allowed to plead his right to half a knight's fee in Porlock against Richard de Raleigh; and this half knight's fee was ever after held of the honour of Oakhampton. It is greatly to be lamented that this fine monument should be obscured by a large pew erected in front of it by one of the parishioners, and which ought to be removed.

Under a rich arched canopy, supported by four stone columns, raised beneath one of the arches that divide the nave from the aisle, there is a table monument bearing two recumbent effigies, a male and female, in white marble. The knight is in complete armour, with a military belt and sword, and wearing a curious cap over his helmet, and a richly-sculptured garland, composed of grapes and vine leaves. The lady is dressed in a close boddice, with a loose robe over it, and a kind of mitred head dress, very richly ornamented in imitation of lace. The knight's feet rest upon a lion, and under his head appears a crest, a lion's head erased on a wreath affixed to his helmet. The lady's feet rest upon a boar. It is much to be regretted that this fine monument is scratched and mutilated in every direction.

The *cross-legged* monument is so denominated from its having the recumbent effigy of the deceased knight with his legs crossed over each other, either placed upon it table-wise, or reposing under a canopied arch in the wall of the aisle, a little above the floor, but the latter is the more ancient mode. On contemplating in the aisles of our venerable churches the cross-legged monuments, now the only remaining memorials of those courageous and valiant crusaders who carried dismay into the hearts of their Saracen opponents, the days of chivalry rise before us in awful and splendid recollection. We feel and own the spirit of the place; and contrast the present solemn tranquillity and mournful silence of the tomb with the clangour of Paynim war. We trace with the eye of fancy the fortunes of the soldier of CHRIST, from the joyful moment of his investment with the sacred badge to the hour of his triumph or death. His contempt of a perilous march, and his heroic ardour in the fields of Palestine, awe and command our imagination; while his sacrifice of country and kindred throws an air of sublime devotedness around his exploits, and forbids us from censuring with severity the madness of the enterprise. As in his life, at the call of religion, he unsheathed his sword, and vowed the destruction of the unbelievers, so in death his marble hand grasps the hilt, and his countenance looks defiance and disdain.⁷⁷

During the Norman period of our history, the holy war and vows of pilgrimage to Palestine, were esteemed highly meritorious and praiseworthy. The religious order of laymen, the Knights Templars, were received, cherished, and enriched throughout Europe; and the individuals of that community, after death, being usually buried cross-legged, in token of the banner under which they fought, and completely armed in regard to their being soldiers, this sort of monument grew much into fashion, and although all the effigies with which we meet in that shape are commonly called Knights Templars, yet there is strong reason to believe that many of those effigies do not represent persons of that community.

It will here be proper, by way of illustration of this venerable and

⁷⁷ Mills's History of the Crusades, Preface, p. v. xj,

interesting branch of our monumental history, to give a short description of some of the more remarkable specimens which are yet to be found in our cathedral, conventual, and larger parish churches. It is necessary to premise that the Order of Knights Templars had its rise but in the year 1118, yet so early as 1134, we find Robert, duke of Normandy, son of William the Conqueror, represented in this manner on his tomb in Gloucester cathedral. This is one of the earliest specimens we have of the cross-legged monument. It is made of Irish oak, as well the table part, as the effigy. On the pannels are the arms of several of the worthies, and at the foot, the arms of France and England, quarterly, which shew that these escutcheons were painted since the reign of King Henry IV. This monument stood entire until the parliamentary army, during the Cromwell usurpation, having garrisoned the city of Gloucester against the king, the soldiers tore it to pieces, which being about to be burned, were bought of them by Sir Humphrey Tracy, of Stanway, and privately laid up until the restoration, when the pieces were put together, repaired, and ornamented, and again placed in their former situation by Sir Humphrey, who also added a wire screen for their future preservation. There is an engraving of this monument in Sandford's Genealogical History, which Rudder, in his History of Gloucester, calls a "noble representation" of it.

The next monument of this class, in point of chronology, is that of Geoffrey de Magnaville, the first earl of Essex, in the Temple Church in London, who died in 1148. He is represented cross-legged in mail, with a surcoat, and round helmet flattened on the top, with a *nose-piece*, which was of iron to defend the nose from swords. His head rests on a cushion placed lozenge wise, his right hand on his breast, a long sword at his right side, and on his left arm a long pointed shield, charged with an escarbuncle on a diapered field. This is the first instance in England of armorial bearings occurring on a sepulchral monument.

It may fairly be presumed from the interest which the Templars took in his remains, that this earl was a knight of their order. Being driven to despair by the confiscation of his estates by King Stephen,

he indulged in every act of violence, and making an attack on the castle of Burwell, was there mortally wounded, and carried off by the Templars, who, however, as he died under sentence of excommunication, declined giving him christian burial, but wrapping his body up in lead, hung it on a crooked tree in the orchard of the Old Temple, in London. William, prior of Walden, having obtained absolution for him of the Pope, made application for his body, for the purpose of burying it at Walden, upon which the Templars took it down from the tree, and deposited it in the cemetery of the New Temple.

In the Temple Church there still remain, in addition to the above, the cross-legged effigies of William Marshall, earl of Pembroke, who died in 1219; William his son, who died in 1231; and Gilbert, another son, who died in 1241, and also many others. Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, who died in 1312, was also represented in this manner on his fine tomb, which was in St. Paul's Cathedral before the fire of London. But it is believed that not one of these last-mentioned personages, who are represented cross-legged, on their monuments, were of the order of Templars. Supposing, however, that these monuments were designed to denote at least that the persons to whose memory they were erected, had been in the Holy Land, yet it is certain that all who had been there did not follow this fashion; for Edmund Crouchback, earl of Lancaster, second son of King Henry III. had been in Palestine, and yet, as it appears by his monument still remaining in Westminster Abbey, is not represented cross-legged. This tomb has been very lofty, and was painted, gilt, and inlaid with stained glass, to imitate Mosaic. The inside of the canopy has represented the sky with stars, but through age it is changed into a dull red. On the base towards the area are the remains of the figures of ten knights, armed, with banners, surcoats of armour, and *cross-belted*, intending by this undoubtedly to represent his expedition to the Holy Land; the number of knights exactly corresponding with what Matthew Parish relates, namely, Edmund and his elder brother, four earls and four knights, of whom some may yet be discovered, particularly the Lord Roger Clifford, as were formerly in Waverly's time, William de Valence and Thomas de Clare. This monument is engraved in Sand-

ford's Genealogical History, in Gough's Sepulchral Monuments, and in Dart's History of Westminster Abbey.

It may be observed of the monuments in the Temple church, that Magnaville, William Marshall, junior, and the last figure in the north group have their legs crossed in an unusual manner. They lie on their backs, and yet cross their legs as if they lay on their sides. So were those of Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, in Old St. Paul's. The spurs of all are remarkably short, and seem rather straps with rowels. Not above two or three have the long pointed shoe, and two have their surcoats exactly reaching to the knee, whereas the others are of different lengths, and fall more easily.

The representation of the deceased knight by a recumbent effigy, cross-legged, and placed upon a monument either table-wise, or reposing on a platform, under a canopied arch in the wall of the aisle, a little above the floor, seems to have been the prevailing fashion from the coming of the Knights Templars into England, in the reign of King Stephen, till the dissolution of their order, in the sixth year of Edward II., 1312, when the Templars fell into the greatest contempt, and their fashions of all kinds were totally abolished. It must, however, be acknowledged, that this sort of monument did not entirely cease after the year 1312, for there is one in the church of Leekhampton, in Gloucestershire, which, by tradition, is said to be for Sir John Giffard, who died possessed of that manor in the third of Edward III., 1328.

The uncertainty to what order of knights the persons represented on table tombs by a cross-legged recumbent effigy, belonged, whether of the order of Templars, or of some other religious or military community, has been already noticed ; I therefore propose to conclude these remarks with the observations of Dr. Nash on this description of monument, inserted in his History of Worcestershire. "That these figures were not intended to represent any persons belonging to the Templars, it may be urged, first, that the knights of that order followed the rule of the Canons Regular of St. Augustin, and as such were under a vow of celibacy. Now there is scarcely any one of these monuments, which is certainly known for whom it was erected,

but it is as certain that the person that it represents was a married man.

"Secondly, the Knights Templars always wore a white habit, with a red cross on the left shoulder. It is believed that not a single instance can be produced of either the mantle or cross being sculptured on any of these monuments, which surely would not have been omitted, as by it they were distinguished from all other orders, had these effigies been really designed to represent Knights Templars.

"Thirdly, this order was not confined to England only, but was dispersed all over Europe; yet it will be very difficult to find one cross-legged monument any where out of England; whereas no doubt they would have abounded in France, Italy, and elsewhere, had it been a fashion peculiar to that celebrated order.

"For these reasons, though it cannot be allowed that the cross-legged recumbent effigies were intended solely to represent persons of the order of Knights Templars, yet there is good ground for supposing that they have some relation to them. These monuments are undoubtedly memorials of those zealous devotees, who had either been in Palestine, personally engaged in what was called the *Holy War*, and in history, the *Crusades*, fighting under the sacred banner of the cross, and on their death were represented by an effigy *cross-legged*, or, as in the figures on the sides of the monument of Edmund Crouchback, in Westminster Abbey, in armour with *cross-belts*, in token of their sincere affection and religious devotion for the symbol of our eternal redemption and salvation; and that they had offered up their lives in defence of our holy religion. In addition to those so represented as having been personally engaged in the Holy War, it is probable that in some other instances they may have represented persons who had laid themselves under a vow to go to Palestine, or who had been signed with the cross preparatory to the voyage, but had been prevented by death from fulfilling their vow. Some few indeed might possibly be erected to the memory of persons who had made pilgrimages thither, merely out of devotion; and among the latter probably was the lady of the family of Metham, of Metham, in Yorkshire; to whose memory a cross-legged monument

was placed in a chapel adjoining the once collegiate church of Howden, and is at this day remaining, together with that of her husband, on the same tomb.

"As this religious mania lasted no longer than the reign of our Henry III., the seventh and last crusade being published in the year 1268; and the whole order of Knights Templars dissolved in the sixth of Edward II., military expeditions to the Holy Land, as well as devout pilgrimages thither, had their period by the year 1312; consequently none of those cross-legged monuments can be of a more early date than the reign of King Stephen, when those expeditions first took place in this kingdom, nor later than the reign of Edward II., or the beginning of that of Edward III."

It is usual to find in these monuments the feet of the effigy of the knight resting on the body of a lion, which was intended as the symbol of military courage and valour; whilst the feet of the lady, where a lady is represented, rest on the body of a dog, denoting the symbol of fidelity.

The table tomb appears to have been contemporary with the cross-legged monuments. The table tomb has the figures recumbent upon it, with their hands joined in a praying posture, sometimes with a rich canopy; and again, some very plain, without any figures. Round the edge of these were sometimes inscriptions on brass plates, which are now too frequently torn off and destroyed.

The most ancient table monument that is extant of the sovereigns of this kingdom, is that of King John, in the choir of Worcester cathedral. His effigy lies on the tomb, crowned; in his right hand he holds the sceptre, in his left a sword, the point of which is received into the mouth of a lion couchant at his feet. The figure is as large as life, and the body was doubtless placed in the coffin, nearly in the same form, and arrayed in such a robe as the figure on the tomb, with his sword in his left hand and booted. On each side of the head, on the tomb, are cumbent effigies in small, of the Bishops St. Oswald and St. Wulstan, represented as censuring him."

In the year 1426,⁷⁸ Sir William Harington, knt., according to Collinson, (the *Liber Regis* calls him Sir *John*) founded a chantry in Porlock church, for two priests to celebrate divine service daily, for the health of his own soul, and the souls of his ancestors; which chantry he endowed with lands in Ugborough, in the county of Devon; as also with divers messuages in the town of Porlock. The house wherein the priest resided, is standing near the church, and is still called the Chantry House. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, there are the following particulars relating to this chantry:

1535. William England and Robert Laurauns,
- chantry priests.

Rents of assize as well of the free as the customary tenants in Ug- borough	20	4	1
Rent of a tenement, with the ap- purtenances, in Doverhayes.....	3	2	0
Perquisites of the courts	0	10	0
	<hr/>		
	23	16	1

Out of which there is paid
the fee of John Gylbert
Seneschal there 0 13 4

Carried forward, £0 13 4 23 16 1

⁷⁸ Rot. Pat. Pro Cantar. de Porlock, in Com. Somerset. 14 Edw. IV. m. 13.

<i>Brought forward, £0 13 4 23 16 1</i>				
In alms distributed to di-				
vers poor persons on the				
foundation of Sir John				
Harington, knt.....	4	6	8	
A payment to the rector				
of Porlock	0	2	6	
A payment to the lord of				
Luccombe, as a chief-				
rent	0	0	8	
To the abbot of Cleve for				
procurations and visita-				
tions of the same chan-				
try priests	0	10	0	
A payment to the principal				
lord	0	0	5	
			<hr/>	5 13 7
				<hr/>
Clear.....	£18	2	6	

Dr. Heylyn informs us that chantries consisted of salaries to one or more priests to say mass daily for the souls of their deceased founders, which, not subsisting of themselves, were generally incorporated and united with some church, parochial or otherwise.⁷⁹ As there were forty-seven chantries in the old church of St. Paul at London, and but fourteen altars,⁸⁰ it was possible for several to be founded at the same altar. From the remaining "Fenestellæ" it is not unreasonable to conclude, that at the east ends of the north and

⁸⁰ Fuller's Church History, p. 350.

⁷⁹ Heylyn's History of the Reformation, p. 51.

south ailes of many parish churches, two such altars once stood, whose officiating priests were bound by an oath to exhibit due obedience to the curate of the mother church ;⁸¹ and the four priests appointed to officiate in the chantry of John Holland, duke of Exeter, in St. Katharine's, near the Tower, were bound to the choir every double feast in the year.⁸² In chantries founded for more than one clergyman, it was usual for each to say a different mass, one of which was always of "Requiem." When a person was not sufficiently rich to endow a perpetual chantry, it was common for an anniversary chaplain to sing masses for the repose of his soul during a certain space, for which a stipend was left, as appears by the will of Robert Wolsey, father of the famous Cardinal.⁸³

In the church-yard there is a stately stone cross, with three rows of steps, which is kept in good repair by the parishioners. There is also a large and venerable yew tree standing near the cross, casting its shade around to a considerable distance.

The cross was under one form or other of it, a kind of monument of art, which very long and very generally subsisted. It was constructed of various materials, but most commonly of stone, and was intended to answer a variety of purposes, civil and religious. Their general design was to excite public homage to the religion of *CHRIST* crucified, and to inspire men with a sense of morality and piety. They were not only placed in church-yards, but were also frequently erected to mark the boundaries of districts, of church property, and of sanctuary; some were erected as monuments to the memory of eminent persons. The preaching cross, stone pulpit, or oratory, was

⁸¹ Ayliffe's *Pereragon Juris Canonici*, p. 166.

⁸² Royal Wills, p. 287.

⁸³ Fiddes's *Life of Wolsey*.

probably first erected for the purpose of sheltering and accommodating the minister when he preached to a large concourse of people in the open air, or for his convenience in reading the funeral service. There were also market crosses of various shapes and sizes. The crosses of memorial erected by King Edward I. where the corpse of his beloved Queen, Eleanor, rested in its progress from the place of her death to London, were of peculiar beauty. There were fifteen of these elegant structures, but only three are now remaining, one at Geddington, another at Northampton, and the third at Waltham. Their peculiar beauty, as specimens of architecture and productions of ancient art, serve to excite regret at the destruction of the others.

It was not until the days of Pope Gregory II., early in the eighth century, that church-yards had a beginning; the dead being usually buried either near the highways, as the Roman laws directed, and which practice was followed by the Christian congregations, or else in places remote from the walls of the city or town, set apart for that purpose. But in the time of Gregory II. the priests and monks began to offer prayers for the deceased, and received gifts and offerings from the relations for the performance of those duties; on which they requested the Pope, that the dead might be buried near the places of the monks' abode, or in the very churches or monasteries; in order that the relations, coming to the worship and solemnities used in those places, might see their graves, remember them, and be moved to join in prayer and processions near their remains. Cuthbert, archbishop of Canterbury, in 750, brought over this practice into England, and hence is dated the *origin of church-yards* in this island used as burial-grounds; thence it grew into a custom to bury in the church, so much that it gave occasion to a canon, made somewhat before the time of Edward the Confessor, *de non sepeliendo in Ecclesiis*. Then it was practised in the nave, or body, only of the church, and afterwards under arches by the side of the walls. Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, seems to have been the first who brought up the use of vaults in chancels

and under the very altars, when he re-built the church of Canterbury about the year 1075.⁸⁴

In the southern counties of England almost every church-yard has its yew-tree, and some have two; but in the northern counties few are to be found. An anonymous writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*,⁸⁵ suggests that the yew afforded branches for the processions on Palm Sunday. In the eastern and northern counties the children gather the branches of the willow, which is then in flower, and carry them about on that festival.

The yew-tree has been considered an emblem of mourning from the earliest times. The more ancient Greeks planted round their tombs such trees only, as bore no fruit, as the elm, the cypress, and the yew. This practice they received from the Egyptians; the Romans adopted it from the Greeks; and the Britons from the Romans. From long habits of association the yew acquired a sacred character; and therefore was considered as the best and most appropriate ornament for consecrated ground. The custom of placing them singly is equally ancient. Statius calls it the solitary yew; and it was, at one time, as common in the church-yards of Italy as it is now in North and South Wales. In many villages of that principality the yew tree and the church are coeval with each other.⁸⁶

The comparative value of a yew with other trees, in former times, may be seen from the following table, taken from the ancient laws of Wales:—

A consecrated yew, its value is a pound.

An oak, its value is six-score pence.

A misseltoe branch, its value is three-score pence.

Thirty-pence is the value of every principal branch in the oak.

Three-score pence is the value of a sweet apple tree.

Thirty-pence is the value of a sour apple tree.

Fifteen-pence is the value of a wood yew tree.

Seven-pence half-penny is the value of a thorn tree.

Four-pence is the value of every tree after that.

⁸⁴ Kennet's *Par. Antiq.* p. 592.—Newcome's *Hist. of St. Alban's*, p. 109.

⁸⁵ 1786, p. 941.

⁸⁶ Bucke's *Harmonies*, vol. ii. p. 329.

The land tax charged annually upon the tithings of Porlock, Bossington, and Yearnor, is as under:—

Porlock.....	£64	0	10
Bossington	82	1	0
Yearnor	17	13	6

In 1801, the resident population of this parish was 600.

In the population abstract of 1821, the return for Porlock stands thus :

Houses inhabited	138
Houses uninhabited	3
Houses building	2
Families	151

Of whom were employed

In agriculture	78
In trade	49
All others.....	24

Persons :—viz.

Males	361
Females	408

Total 769

Increase in twenty years ... 169

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons in 1818, the Rev. H. M. Passmore, the minister of this parish, states that there is a small day school here, supported by voluntary subscription, consisting of twenty-three

children. The poor are very anxious to have their children educated, and would be thankful for any assistance afforded them.

In 1815, there were forty-seven poor here.

BENEFACCTIONS TO THE POOR.

Against one of the pillars in the nave of the church, there is a table containing the following statement of benefactions to the poor:—on the top are the arms of Rogers, namely, *argent*, a chevron, between three bucks trippant, *sable*.

“ Henry Rogers, of Cannington, esq. sometime lord of this manor, by his last will gave the sum of £2350 for the purchasing of lands, the clear rents and profits thereof to be employed towards the maintenance of twenty poor people; eight of the said poor to live within the manor of Porlock, and to have their proportions; which lands have been since purchased in the names of Sir Edward Wyndham, bart., Sir Francis Warre, bart., and others, to the number of twelve trustees; and when any five of them shall die, the survivors are, within six months after, to elect so many more fit and able persons to manage the trust. The vicar of Cannington, for the time being, is appointed to be one, according to a deed of trust, one copy whereof remains in our vestry.

WILLIAM RUSCOMB, Steward.”

There is also another charity of £25 a year, being the rent of an estate in Winsford parish, formerly left by Mrs. Rogers.

In the fifteenth report of the commissioners concerning charities, there is the following account of Mr. Rogers's benefaction :—

“ Henry Rogers, by his will, bearing date the 8th of May, 1672, bequeathed to his trustees and executors therein named, the sum of £600 for the parish of Cannington, in this county ; the trusts whereof he declared in the following words :—‘ Towards raising a stock and a working-house for maintenance of the poor, such as are now inhabiting within the parish of Cannington, or hereafter may inhabit there, and whose ancestors have been born there, but not to any new incomers or intruders that shall hereafter come to settle there.’

“ The said testator then proceeds as follows :—

‘ Item, I give to the poor of the parish of Porlock, the like sum of £600 to be laid out and employed by my trustees and executors, for maintaining of the poor there, as I have before directed, for Cannington.’

“ In or about the year 1688, an information was filed in the court of chancery, by his Majesty's then Attorney-General, at the relation of the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the several parishes of Fifield, in the county of Southampton, and Cannington and Porlock, in the county of Somerset, against the several persons therein mentioned to be the trus-

tees of the said Henry Rogers, deceased, defendants, for establishing these charities; and by a decree made in the said cause, dated 23rd of July, 1689, reciting, that the said several sums bequeathed by the said Henry Rogers, to the said parishes respectively, had been paid by his executors, it was declared, that the said several sums of money ought to be applied according to the will of the said testator, that it should be referred to one of the masters of the said court, to certify the most convenient method of laying out the said several sums of money for the benefit of the said parishes respectively, and that the said money should be laid out as the said master should direct."

"By indentures of lease and release, dated respectively the 29th and 30th of January, 1689, and made between Thomas Kent and others, of the first part; Alexander Popham, esq. and others therein named, of the second part; and Warwick Bampfylde, esq., of the third part; the said Thomas Kent, and others, in consideration of the sum of £460, which said money was declared to be a part of the said £600 above-mentioned to have been given to the said parish of Porlock, by the will of the said Henry Rogers aforesaid, did convey to the said Alexander Popham, and others, of the second part, their heirs and assigns, all that messuage and tenement commonly called by the name of Nether Staddon, situate at Winsford-Bousing, in the county of Somerset; and all that piece or close of ground, commonly called by the name of

Lower Staddon, situate in Winsford aforesaid; to hold to them, their heirs and assigns, for ever, in trust, that they and the survivor of them, his and their heirs and assigns, should for ever thereafter, dispose of the rents and profits of the said premises, towards raising a stock for keeping such of the poor of the parish of Porlock, as were then inhabiting within the same parish, or should inhabit there, and whose ancestors had been born there; but not to any new incomers or intruders that should come to settle there; and upon further trust, that when any three or more of the trustees should die, the survivor should convey the said trust premises to six or more persons, substantial freeholders, leaseholders or copyholders, inhabiting in or near the said parish of Porlock to be trustees of the said premises, and so *toties quoties*; all such new trustees to be from time to time chosen by the minister, or incumbent of the said parish, together with the churchwardens and overseers of the poor, and most substantial inhabitants of the same parish for the time being.

“By an indenture, bearing date the 2nd of December, 1806, made between John Kent and William Stoate, of Porlock, of the one part; and George Pollen, rector of Porlock, and several other persons therein named, of the other part; reciting the said will, decree, and indentures, of the 29th and 30th of January, 1689, last mentioned; and also reciting divers intermediate conveyances of the trust property to new trustees, whereby the same was become vested

in them the said John Kent and William Stoate, did thereby grant, release and confirm the said trust estates unto the said George Pollen and others; to hold to them, their heirs and assigns, for ever, upon the trusts of the said will and indentures, therein before-mentioned."

The present trustees are the Rev. Hugh Passmore, curate of Porlock; William Terrell, John Fry, John Slowley, Robert Griffiths, John Rawle, Thomas Fry, William Stoate, Thomas Parramore, William Fry, John Groves, William Ridler, and William Thomas.

The premises called Nether and Lower Staddon, in the parish of Winsford, constitute one farm, consisting of fifty or sixty acres of high land, and is now let to William Ridler, a farmer, living in the said parish, as tenant from year to year, at the rent of forty pounds. It was let by the minister and trustees to the best tenant, and for the highest rent that could be obtained for the same.

The rent is received by the overseers of the parish of Porlock, and applied by them, together with the monies raised for the support of the poor of the parish, and accounted for by the overseers, together with the poor-rates. This rent appears by the overseers' books always to have had the same application.

A moiety of the rents and profits of certain lands in Cannington aforesaid, which were purchased with the sum of £2350, were to be applied towards the main-

tenance of twenty poor persons, four of whom were to be of the parish of Burnham, and sixteen of the manor of Porlock.

Eight shares of this property belong to the parish of Porlock, and the amount is paid by the treasurer of the trust to an agent at Porlock, for distribution, according to the directions of the decree. The agent so employed for receiving and distributing the shares belonging to the parish of Porlock, is Mr. John Rawle,⁹⁰ a substantial farmer, resident in the parish. He makes the distribution in equal portions to sixteen poor persons, nominated by the trustees of the said charity, not receiving parish pay, and living within the manor of Porlock, and continues the payments to the same persons until vacancies occur by death. The minister has hitherto usually been consulted by the trustees, on the appointment of the objects of the charity.

Soon after the conquest of England by the duke of Normandy, the manor of PORLOCK was given by the conqueror to Baldwin de Execestre, one of his faithful adherents and followers; and accordingly we find in Domesday Book, the following description of it:—

“Drogo holds of Baldwin de Execestre PORTLOC. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and it was assessed to the geld for three hides. The arable land is sufficient for 12 ploughs. There are 6 villans, 3

⁹⁰ Mr. John Rawle, since this Report was made, has left Porlock.

bordars, and 6 bondmen; 300 acres of wood, and 500 acres of pasture. When he received it, it was worth four pounds, now only 25 shillings."

In the *Exeter Domesday*, fo. 294, this Drogo is called Rogo Fitz Nigel, and he is said to hold here in demesne one hide and a half, and the tenants in villanage the other land.

This Baldwin had various appellations, sometimes being denominated from the place of his birth, from his country, or his residence, and sometimes from his officary dignity. He is sometimes called Baldwin *de Brioniis*, from his father having been earl of Brienne in Normandy; at others Baldwin *de Molis*, from the castle of Mola in that duchy, where he was born; again Baldwin *de Exeter*, from the place of his residence in Devonshire, and Baldwin *Vicecomes*, and Baldwin *Sheriff*, from having the government of that county intrusted to him by the conqueror.

He was descended from Richard I. duke of Normandy, whose natural son Geoffrey bore the title of earl of Ewe. The latter had a son Gilbert Crispin, earl of Brienne, whose two sons, Richard Fitz-Gilbert (ancestor of the earls of Clare) and this Baldwin, accompanied William duke of Normady into England. Baldwin had great possessions given him in the counties of Dorset, Somerset, and Devon, in which latter county he held one hundred and fifty-nine lordships, and in Exeter nineteen houses, besides the castle which he built there, and in which he resided. He married

Albreda cousin of the conqueror, and daughter of his aunt; by whom he had three sons, Richard, Robert, and William. His eldest son and his posterity assumed the name *de Redvers, de Ripariis*, now Rivers.

Collinson, in his History of Somerset,⁹¹ says that the successors of this Baldwin, earls of Devon, enjoyed this estate, but in process of time enfeoffed the manor on the family of *Roges* or *Fitz-Roges*, of which name were many in this county, and also in that of Devon; but it appears from Domesday Book that the first possessor Baldwin de Exeter, conferred it upon Drogo, the same person who is called Rogo Fitz-Nigel in the Exeter Domesday, and who was probably the ancestor of the family of Roges or Fitz-Roges above-mentioned.

In the reign of Henry II. Anthony de Porlock, a local surname assumed from this town, held half a knight's fee in Porlock of Robert Fitz-Roges. And in the first year of Richard I. (1189), Simon Fitz-Roges, lord of this manor, paid a fine of one hundred shillings for impleading his right to half a knight's fee in Porlock against Richard de Raleigh. This half knight's fee was ever after held of the castle of Oakhampton, the barony of the earls of Devon. And accordingly we find that by an inquisition taken in the first of Richard II. (1377), Hugh de Courtenay, late earl of Devon, held half a knight's fee in Porlock, as of the honour of Oakhampton.⁹²

⁹¹ vol. ii. p. 36.

⁹² Inq. p. m. 1 Ric. 2. No. 12.—Chal. vol. iii. p. 2.

Previously to the twenty-sixth of Edward I. the town of Porlock, with its woods, heaths, and appurtenances, then the property of Simon Roges de Porlock, had been included by encroachment within the boundary of the forest of Exmoor; but in that year it was disafforested, according to the tenor of the charter of forests; and entirely freed from the oppressive restrictions of the forest laws.

This manor and the advowson of the church continued for many generations in the family of Roges, until the beginning of the reign of Edward III. By an inquisition taken in the thirty-fourth of Edward I. (1306), Simon Roges de Porlock and Isabella his wife were found to hold the town of Porlock.⁹³ Sometime before 1317, Simon Roges de Porlock being then dead, Herbert de Marisco, who had married Isabel his widow, presented Richard de Birlaunde to the church here.

After this the manor of Porlock passed to the family of Stokhay, and after some descents to Sir Nigel de Loaring (de Lotharingia, now Lorraine) knight of the garter. In the thirty-ninth of Edward III., this Sir Nigel de Loaring obtained a charter of the king for a market and fair at Porlock, and also a licence to make a park there.⁹⁴ He married Margaret daughter of Sir Ralph Beupel, of Lankey, in the county of Devon,

⁹³ Inq. p. m. 34 Edw. I. Simon Roges de Porlock et Isabella uxor ejus, Porlocks villa extent ibidem ampla.—Cal. vol. i. p. 206.

⁹⁴ Rot. Chart. 39 & 40 Edw. III. No. 10.—Calendar, p. 185.

by whom he had two daughters, to whom he left this and his other estates. Elizabeth, the elder, (called Isabel by Collinson) became the wife of Robert Lord Harington; and Margaret, the younger, first married Thomas Peyner, and secondly, Sir Thomas Poynings, knight.

On the partition of these estates between the daughters, the manor of Porlock came to Robert Lord Harington, and in the seventh of Henry IV. this Robert Lord Harington, was found by an inquisition to hold the manor of Porlock, and the advowson of the church, as of the manor of Oakhampton.⁹⁵ Afterward this manor and advowson descended to William Bonville, Lord Harington, and by Cecily his daughter and heiress, to Henry Grey, duke of Suffolk, by whose attainder it fell to the crown, and was granted to the family of Rogers of Cannington.

Edward Rogers died seized of this manor in 1627. Sir Francis Rogers died in the fifteenth of Charles I., and was succeeded by Hugh Rogers, his son and heir, whose wardship and marriage were granted to Sir John Hele and Thomas Smith, esq. It afterwards came to the Blathwaites, and in 1790 was possessed by William Blathwaite, of Dyrham, in the county of Gloucester, esq., and after his death, by marriage with his daughter, by Admiral Douglas.

⁹⁵ Inq. p. m. 7 Hen. 4.—Robert de Harington, Chivalier, Porlok Manor. et advoc. Ecclesie ut de Manerio de Oakhampton.—Cal. vol. iii. p. 309.

The manor house has the name of *Worthy*,⁹⁶ a part of it has been pulled down and rebuilt, and is at this time inhabited by Captain Cox. It stands near the Wear, about two miles from Porlock; and at a little distance from it, there is a small cottage called *the oratory*, which, tradition says, was formerly a cell to Barlinch priory in this county.

The rector of Porlock is also lord of a manor, called "the parson's manor," the whole of which is held by copyhold tenants for lives. He holds a court baron, and receives arbitrary fines for putting in fresh lives, heriots, &c.

The manor of SPARKS-HAY, which formerly was a member of the great manor of Porlock, belongs to Lord King.

HAMLETS IN THE PARISH OF PORLOCK.

PORLOCK-WEAR.

The village of Porlock-Wear stands on the sea-shore, about a mile and a half from Porlock, and is properly its port. Here is a good inn, and a small quay. It contains 'about twenty-one houses. There are three sloops belonging to this place, and many fishing-boats, but few of the latter are ever employed, except in the herring-fishing season, when, in some years, the fishermen take great numbers. The sloops are principally

⁹⁶ From the Anglo-Saxon *weorthig*, the same as the Latin *atrium*, *prædium*, *stabus*, a dwelling.

employed in carrying timber, grain, malt, and flour to Wales; and in bringing back lime-stone, coals, and culm.

This village is situated at the corner of a beautiful bay, terminating a sort of semi-circular area, which is almost entirely inclosed by hills, and smiles with verdure and cultivation. Bossington Point, forming the eastern and opposite corner, presents a grand scene of craggy rocks, some torn from the main land; others hollowed into caverns by frequent tempests, and the rest elevating themselves in the boldest manner to the height of full three hundred feet. On the eminences above the villages there are hanging woods of beech, oak, and elm, which, with the crags peeping above the foliage, have an uncommon richness and luxuriance of effect. Stretching along the mountains that slope towards the severn, and encircling their feet as well as their brows; this continued thicket tempted us to ramble through the shady mazes, in search of their botanical productions. Several species of the cryptogamous class, deserve at least in this district, to be ranked among the rarer ones, such as *bryum verticillatum*, *hypnum compressum*, *lichen cochleatus*, *scrobiculatus*, and *apthosus*.

What a sweet train of peaceful, yet elevated ideas such scenes will naturally excite! These are the objects which captivate the contemplative man. When recalled to the portal of that wide mansion where "the busy hum" of the more active part of his species is heard, it

is not to be wondered at if he should often look back with emotions of regret and tenderness to the serenity of nature. On the other hand, he, who has been involved, during a long period, in the multifarious cares, and inquietudes, and contentions of life, will be incapable of feeling the refined sensations, which the former fosters with so much ardour; nor will he

“ ————— Exempt from public haunts,
 “ Find tongues in trees, books in the running streams,
 “ Sermons in stones, and good in every thing.”

The road to Minehead lies between several noble eminences, the steep sides of which are either ornamented with broad patches of wood, or covered with excellent herbage for sheep. The valleys are remarkably fertile, being overspread with a strong deep soil, and moistened by numerous rivulets.⁹⁷

WEST-PORLOCK.

This is a village containing sixteen houses, about half a mile between Porlock and Porlock-Wear.

YEARNOR.

This village stands on a hill, in the western part of the parish, and contains only six houses.

⁹⁷ Maton's Tour in the Western Counties, vol. ii. p. 93, 96.

BOSSINGTON.⁹⁸

The hamlet and tithing of BOSSINGTON, in the eastern division of this parish, lies about one mile from Porlock, under Orestone hill. Before the conquest, this was a manor, and formed part of the possessions of the abbey of Athelney, having been appropriated to keeping the table of the monks. In Domesday book, it is entered as belonging to Ralph de Limesi, one of the conqueror's followers, and is thus described:—

“Ralph de Limesi holds BOSINTUNE. The church of Adelingi held it in the time of King Edward, and it was assessed to the geld for one hide. It was appropriated to the table of the monks. The arable land is sufficient for five ploughs. There is in the demesne one plough and one bondman; there are five villans and two bordars, who have one plough. There is a pasture one mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. It was and is now worth twenty shillings. When the king gave his land to Ralph de Limesi, the church of Athelney was seized of this manor.”⁹⁹

In the Exeter Domesday, the manor of Bossington is entered under the head of “The Land of the Free Thaness, in Somersetshire,” of whom Ralph de Limesi appears to have been one.¹

⁹⁸ Bossington—from the Belgic *Bosch*; Teutonic *Bosch*, the same as the Latin *Silva*, a wood or forest—and *Tun*, a Town—that is the Forest Town, from its vicinity to Exmoor forest.

⁹⁹ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 97, col. 1.

¹ Exon. D. fo. 428.

After this the manor was holden of the same abbey, by the service of one knights fee and a rent of thirty shillings. In the time of Henry II. Talbot de Hethfield agreed, under his seal, to hold the same of Benedict, abbot of Athelney, and his successors, and besides the above acknowledgment, to assist the abbots against their enemies, under pain of excommunication. His descendants took the name of Talbot.

Previously to the twenty-sixth of Edward I. the manor of Bossington, with its woods, heaths, and appurtenances, had been included by encroachment within the boundaries of the forest of Exmoor, but in that year it was disafforested, according to the tenor of the charter of forests, and entirely freed from the oppressive restriction of the forest laws.

In the reign of Edward I. this manor was held by Henry de Glastonbury. In 1295, (twenty-third of Edw. I.) this Henry obtained the remission of the tenth charged upon his own proper goods, by virtue of the grant made by the laity of the kingdom; and in 1300, (twenty-eighth of Edw. I.) he was returned from the county of Somerset, as holding lands, either in capite or otherwise to the amount of £40. yearly value and upwards; and as such was summoned to perform military service against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Carlisle, on the 24th of June, in that year.

In the reign of Edward III. John Whyton possessed this manor, and died in the latter end of that reign, leaving by Joan, his wife, two daughters his co-heiresses,

namely, Elizabeth the elder, who married Walter Pauncefoot, and was mother of another Walter, who did his homage for half the manor to John Bigge, abbot of Athelney, in the third of Henry VI. and sold his right to John Sydenham, son of Henry, who married Margaret, the other daughter; and in the thirtieth of the same king, on an award made by arbitration of Alexander Hody, then steward of the abbey, John Sydenham acknowledged the rent and services above recited for the whole manor, whereof he was possessed of half by purchase of Walter Pauncefoot.

Sir Thomas Dyke Acland is the present owner.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in the tithing of Bossington, as assessed to the property tax, was £1001.—In 1818, the county rate was £1. 0s. 10½d.

The land tax charged annually upon the tithing of Bossington, is £82. 1s. 0d.

Bossington contains 24 houses.

ASHLEY LODGE.

After ascending the hill by the road, described in our account of the parish of Culbone, from Porlock-Wear to Culbone church, at some distance, another road branches off to the left; this leads to Ashley Lodge, a summer seat belonging to Lord King, where his lordship occasionally resides. It stands upon a small plain, of about half an acre, two-thirds of the way up a high and steep hill, entirely covered with wood, except the

spot on which the house stands, and the small lawn about it. The house is castellated, and the view from it is beautiful, especially on a fine evening; and in a storm it is awfully grand, from its vicinity to the Bristol Channel.

GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF KING,
BARONS KING, OF OCKHAM.

Labor ipse voluptas.

The family of KING is said to derive its origin from this county. The study and practice of the laws have, in all ages, been reputed honourable; and many individuals have been raised thereby to the highest employments in the state. Among these may be reckoned Peter, the first LORD KING, who was the son and heir of Jerome King, of Exeter, who carried on in that city the business of a grocer. Mr. King, though possessed of considerable property, and descended from a good family, resolved to bring up his son to his own trade, and accordingly confined him to his shop for some years. The son's inclination to learning, however, surmounted his situation, and caused him to devote all his leisure hours to study, by which he became an excellent scholar, before even his friends suspected it. His maternal uncle, the celebrated *John Locke*, surprised at his prodigious attainments, advised him to perfect his studies at Leyden, and to pursue the law. Mr. King accordingly entered himself of the Inner Temple, and soon made a rapid progress in that

profession; but not without having, in the interim, distinguished himself by publishing "*An Inquiry into the Constitution, Discipline, Unity, and Worship of the Primitive Church, that flourished within the first three hundred years after Christ, faithfully collected out of the extant writings of those ages.*" London, 1691. And a few years afterward he published "*The History of the Apostles' Creed.*" London, 1702.

In 1699, he was returned member of parliament for the borough of Beeralston, in Devonshire, for which place he also sat during the five succeeding parliaments in the reign of Queen Anne. In the first of George I. in Michaelmas term, 1714, he was appointed lord chief justice of the common pleas; and on the 5th of April following, was sworn of his majesty's privy council. Also in consideration of his great merits, was created on the 29th of May, 1725, a peer of the realm, by the style and title of LORD KING, *Baron of Ockham, in the county of Surry*; and on the 1st of June, in the same year, was declared LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND; and was one of the lords justices for the administration of the government during his majesty's absence in Hanover. He was again, on the 31st of May, 1727, appointed one of the lords justices; and on the demise of George I. the great seal was, on the 15th of June, 1727, delivered to him by his successor, George II. and his lordship took the oath of lord chancellor. He had likewise a pension of £6000 a year, payable out of the post-office.

Lord King is supposed not to have made such a figure as chancellor, as was expected from the character that raised him to that office. However, he took extraordinary pains in the discharge of his duties, which, by degrees, impaired his constitution, and brought on paralysis; and his disorder increasing, he resigned the seals on the 29th of November, 1733, and departed this life on the 22nd of July, 1734, aged sixty-five.

His lordship's remains were interred in the parish church of Ockham in Surry, in which there is a monument erected to his memory, with a fine marble statue of his lordship, and an inscription relating these further particulars:—

“He was born in the city of Exeter, of worthy and substantial parents; but with a genius greatly superior to his birth. By his industry, prudence, learning, and virtue, he raised himself to the highest character and reputation, and to the highest posts and dignities. He applied himself to his studies in the Inner Temple; and to an exact and complete knowledge in all the parts and history of the law, added the most extensive learning, theological and civil. He was chosen a member of the House of Commons in the year 1699; recorder of the city of London in the year 1708; made chief justice of the common pleas 1714; on the accession of King George I. created Lord King, baron of Ockham, and raised to the post and dignity of lord high chancellor of Great Britain, 1725. Under the labour and fatigues of which weighty place, sinking into a paralytic disease,

he resigned it November 29th, 1733; and died July 22nd, 1734, aged sixty-five; a friend to true religion and liberty. He married Anne, daughter of Richard Seys, of Boverton, in Glamorganshire, esq., with whom he lived to the day of his death in perfect love and happiness. And left issue by her four sons, John, now Lord King; Peter, William, and Thomas; and two daughters, Elizabeth, and Anne."

JOHN, his eldest son and heir, succeeded him in his title and estates, as second LORD KING. He was appointed out-ranger of his majesty's forest of Windsor, on the first of July, 1726; and was one of the members for the borough of Launceston, in Cornwall, in the first parliament called by George II.; and in the parliament summoned to meet on the 13th of June, 1734, was elected for the city of Exeter, and also for Launceston; but he succeeded to the peerage before it met for the despatch of business. His lordship, in May, 1726, married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Fry, of Yarty, in the county of Devon, esq. which lady departed this life in the 23rd year of her age, on the 28th of January, 1733-4, leaving no issue, and was buried at Ockham. His lordship, afterward, being in an ill state of health, was advised, for change of air, to go to Portugal; but in his voyage to Lisbon, departed this life, on board his majesty's ship, the Ruby, on February 10th, 1739-40, and was buried at Ockham.—Whereupon the honour and estate descended to his next brother,

PETER, THIRD LORD KING, who, on the 18th of April,

1740, was appointed out-ranger of Windsor forest, in the room of the late lord. He died on the 22nd of March, 1754, unmarried, and his remains were interred at Ockham. He was succeeded in the title and estate by his brother William.

Which WILLIAM, FOURTH LORD KING, was cursitor of London and Middlesex, but dying unmarried, on the 16th of April, 1767, he was buried at Ockham, and the honour descended to his youngest brother,

THOMAS, FIFTH LORD KING, born the 19th March, 1712, who, in 1734, married Wilhelmina-Catherina, daughter of John Troye, a member of the sovereign council of Brabant, and by her, who died June 3rd, 1784, he had issue,

1. Peter, sixth Lord King.
2. Thomas, born in London, April 11th, 1740; died June 26th, 1779.
3. Ann, born at Delft, January 10th, 1735; died October 3rd, 1797.
4. Wilhelmina, born at the Hague, on the 4th of March, 1738; married in 1784, Admiral George Murray, uncle to the duke of Athol, and died December 29th, 1795.

His lordship dying April 24th, 1779, aged 67, was succeeded by his eldest son,

PETER, SIXTH LORD KING, who was born at the Hague, October 6th, 1736, and married in December, 1774, Charlotte, daughter of the late Edward Tedcroft, of Horsham, in Sussex, esq. and by her had issue,

1. Peter, the present peer.
2. William, born February 24th, 1780; died December 3rd, 1798.
3. George, born January 28th, 1783; married in November, 1808, Miss Tedcroft, daughter of Nathaniel Tedcroft, esq. of Horsham, in Sussex.

His lordship died on the 23rd of November, 1793, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

PETER, *present* and SEVENTH LORD KING, who was born on the 31st of August, 1775. His lordship married on the 26th of May, 1804, Lady Hester Fortescue, daughter of Hugh, present Earl Fortescue, by whom he had issue.

1. A daughter, born the 2nd of May, 1806.
2. Another daughter, born November 27th, 1807.
3. A son, born January 25th, 1811.—And
4. A daughter, born September 4th, 1814.

His lordship is an ingenious and well-informed man, and has shewn himself eminently versed in the science of political arithmetic; more particularly in a pamphlet entitled “*Thoughts on the Restriction of Payment in Specie at the Banks of England and Ireland.*” London, 1803, 8vo.”⁹⁶

In the year 1811, after a determination of the judges had set aside the statute of the fifth and sixth of Edward VI. so far as bank notes were concerned, it became necessary in the then state of public affairs, that some

⁹⁶ See Edin. Rev. vol. ii. p. 402.

certain provision should be made to stop that traffic in coins, which threatened their total destruction, and to prevent bank notes from being received or paid for any smaller sum than that specified thereon. This measure was urged forward by a letter which Lord King addressed in the month of June, 1811, to his tenants, in which his lordship says—"In consequence of the late great depreciation of paper money, I can no longer consent to receive any bank notes at their nominal value in payment or satisfaction of an old contract." He therefore required payment in guineas, or in Portugal gold coin, equal in weight to the number of guineas due; or in bank notes with an addition of £14. 12s. 8d. *per cent.* such being the difference in the market price of gold, when the agreements were made in 1807, and the market price in 1811. By this measure, government was reduced to this dilemma; namely, either to strike immediately a sufficiency of gold coins, or to protect from arrest those who were unable to procure guineas for the payment of demands upon them. The latter was determined upon; and thus the opportunity, at that period, of establishing fairly, a coinage of gold of such a weight as would probably have secured the guineas in future from the melting-pot was lost, and the government was compelled to make bank notes approach still more nearly than before to a legal tender.*

The baronial family of KING bear for their arms,

* Ruding's *Annals of the Coinage*, vol. iv. p. 104, 105.

Sable, three spears' heads, *Argent*, the points *Gules*; on a chief, *Or*, as many battle-axes, *Azure*.

Crest—On a wreath a dexter arm couped at the elbow, habited, *Azure*, adorned with three spots, *Or*, the cuff turned up, grasping a truncheon of a spear, *Sable*, the head *Argent*.

Supporters—Two English mastiffs regardant, proper, each having a plain collar, *Gules*.

JOHN BRIDGWATER, RECTOR OF PORLOCK, 1565.

John Bridgwater, or de Bridgwater, rector of Lincoln College, Oxford; and who, in his writings, calls himself AQUA PONTANUS, is deserving of a place in this work, on account of his having been rector of Porlock; and also for having been descended from a Somersetshire family, who assumed the local surname from their residence at the town of Bridgwater. The subject of this article was born in Yorkshire, and was entered a student of Hart Hall, Oxford; and thence removed to Brazen-Nose College, where he proceeded M. A. in 1556, and about the same time took orders. Although he outwardly complied with the reformed religion in Queen Elizabeth's reign; yet he lay under the suspicion, which he afterward confirmed, of being more seriously attached to popery. While he preserved this disguise, he was on the 1st of May, 1562, made rector of Wootton-Courtenay, in this county, and on the 14th of April, 1563, was chosen rector of Lincoln College. In 1565, he was rector of Porlock,

and on the 28th of November, 1570, was appointed master of Catherine's Hospital, near Bedminster, canon of Wells; and archdeacon of Rochester. In 1574, being no longer able to conceal his zeal for popery, he quitted the rectorship of Lincoln College, which Wood thinks he could no longer have retained, without the danger of expulsion; and after resigning his other preferments, went to the English College at Doway, along with several students whom he had instructed in the principles of popery. Afterward he travelled to Rome, and thence to Germany. He resided at Triers, in 1594, but no further traces can be discovered of his progress, neither is it known when he died. It is supposed that in his latter days, he became a jesuit; but neither Pits nor Alegambe notice this circumstance. He published

1. "*Concertatio Ecclesiæ Catholicæ in Anglia*," first published by Fenn and Gibbons, at Triers, 1583, octavo, and enlarged by Dr. Bridgwater; *ibid.*, 1594, quarto. It contains an account of the sufferings and deaths of several priests, &c.

2. "*Confutatio virulentæ Disputationis Theologicæ, in qua Georgius John, Prof. Acad. Heidelberg. conatus est docere, Pontificem Romanum esse Antichristum*," etc., *ibid.*, 1589, quarto.

3. "An Account of the Six Articles, usually proposed to the missionaries that suffered in England."⁴

⁴ For the authorities of this article, see *Biogr. Dict.* vol. vi.—Wood's *Athen. Oxon.* vol. i.—Dodd's *Church History*, vol. ii.

Among the rectors of Porlock we find Dr. STEPHEN HALES, a name illustrious in the annals of botanical science. He was the sixth son of Thomas Hales, esq., of Beaksbourn, in Kent, and grandson of Sir Robert Hales, bart., of Beaksbourn, where he was born on the 17th of September, 1677; and was admitted a pensioner of Benet College, Cambridge, under the tuition of Mr. Moss, on the 19th of June, 1696, where, after taking his first degree in arts, he was admitted a fellow, February 25, 1702-3. He proceeded M.A. at the next commencement, and was admitted B. D. in 1711. The degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by the University of Oxford in 1733. Botany and anatomy formed his studies of relaxation while at Cambridge, his companion in which being the celebrated antiquary, Dr. Stukeley.

Dr. Hales was advanced successively to the perpetual curacy of Teddington, in Middlesex, and to the livings of Porlock, Somersetshire, and Farrington, Hampshire. He resided to the end of his life at Teddington, where he was visited by persons of rank and taste; amongst others, by Frederick, late prince of Wales, after whose death, Dr. Hales was made clerk of the closet to the Princess Dowager, who always entertained a high respect for him, and after his decease, erected a handsome monument to his memory in Westminster Abbey, near that of Handel. On this is his bust, in a large medallion, supported by a female figure, representing botany, accompanied by religion. The epitaph is in latin. He refused a canonry of Windsor, that

he might continue to devote himself to his parochial duties and his favourite scientific pursuits; and as piety, truth, and virtue were the principles of his character, he lived in universal esteem to the age of eighty-four, dying at Teddington, January 4th, 1761, where he was buried under the church tower, which he had re-built at his own expense.

Dr. Hales having been elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1717, communicated to that learned body his first essay in vegetable physiology, containing an account of some experiments concerning the effect of the sun's heat in raising the sap. In 1727, appeared the first edition of his "Vegetable Staticks," in octavo, illustrated by plates, of which a second edition was published in 1731, followed after by several others. This work was translated into French by Buffon in 1735; and into Italian by a Neapolitan lady named Ardinghelli, in 1756. There are also editions in the German and Dutch languages. The original book was in fact, the first volume of a work entitled "Statical Essays," of which the second, relating to the circulation of the blood in animals, was called "Hemastaticks," and came out in 1733. In this the subject of the urinary calculus also is treated chemically and medically.

With a laudable view of preventing as well as curing the sufferings and crimes of his fellow-creatures, this good man published anonymously, "A Friendly Admonition to the Drinkers of Gin, Brandy, and other

Spirituous Liquors," which has often been reprinted and distributed gratis, by those who consider the temporal and eternal interests of their fellow subjects, rather than the increase of the revenue. His invention of the ventilator for mines, prisons, hospitals, and the holds of ships, laid before the Royal Society, in 1741, and applied also to the ventilation and consequent preservation of corn in granaries, has proved one of the most extensively useful contrivances for the preservation of health and human life. His philosophy was not a barren accumulation for the ignorant to wonder at, or for its professor to repose in sottish self-sufficiency and uselessness; but an inexhaustible fund, on which his piety and his benevolence were continually drawing. Such philosophy and such learning alone, entitle their possessors to authority or respect, and such are the best fruits of religion. In this instance at least, they were duly honoured, both at home and abroad. The fame of Dr. Hales, was widely diffused throughout the learned world, of which he received a most distinguished testimony, in being elected one of the eight foreign members of the French Academy of Sciences, in 1753, in the place of Sir Hans Sloane, who died in that year. He was well acquainted with Mr. Ellis and other naturalists of his day, with whose views and pursuits of all kinds he ardently concurred; but it does not appear that his foreign correspondence was extensive. His name does not occur among the correspondents of Haller, who nevertheless held him in the highest esti-

mation as a philosopher and a man. In 1732, Dr. Hales had been appointed by the British Government, a trustee for settling a colony in Georgia.

As a vegetable physiologist, Dr. Hales is entitled to the highest honour. His experiments and remarks led the way to those of Duhamel, Bonnet, and all that have followed. His accuracy of observation, and fidelity of relation, have never been impeached; and his ideas in physics, in many instances, went before the knowledge of his day, and anticipated future discoveries; such are his observations relative to airs, and to vegetable secretions. One of his more able successors in the study of vegetable physiology, has doubted the accuracy of one of his plates only, (tab. 11.) in which three trees, having been united by engrafting their branches, the intermediate one, by the earth being removed from its roots, is left hanging in the air; but an experiment of the late Dr. Hope's, at Edinburgh, upon three willows, of which Dr. Smith was an eye-witness, and which was conducted with success in imitation of this of Hales, puts his account beyond all doubt whatever.⁵

A respectable family of the name of PHELPS, has long resided at Porlock; many of the individuals of which seem to possess an hereditary talent for drawing and painting, and several churches in the neighbourhood

⁵ From Chalmers's Biograph. Dict.—Masters's Hist. of C. C. C. C.—Annual Register, 1764.—Rees's Cyclopædia.—Gent. Mag. vol. lxi.—Butler's Life of Hildale, p. 362.—Lysons's Environs of London, vol. III.

have been ornamented by them. The oldest member of this family, Mr. H. Phelps, Surgeon, was seen by the writer of this article, engaged in painting a head, in the autumn of 1828; though then he was upwards of ninety years of age, nor did he use glasses. A nephew of this gentleman's, is now an artist of some celebrity in London.

LUCCOMBE.⁶

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—RECTORY.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—CHARITIES.—MANOR.—DOMESDAY SURVEY.—FAMILY OF DE LUCCOMBE.—OF ARUNDEL.—OF WENTWORTH.—PAINTED GLASS.—HISTORY OF PAINTED GLASS.—HAMLETS.—HORNER.—WEST-LUCCOMBE.—DOVER-HAY.—GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR OF THE FAMILY OF BYAM.

THE parish of Luccombe is situated at the western junction of the two valleys which pass down each side of Grabhurst Hill; it is bounded by the Bristol Channel, and by the parishes of Porlock, Selworthy, Wootton-Courtenay, Cutcombe, and Stoke-Pero; and is four miles south-west from Minehead, and two east from Porlock. This is a fine and well-cultivated parish, the lands being proportionably divided into arable, meadow, and pasture; the former is generally better adapted for the production of barley than wheat. The fences being fine quick-set and well-studded with timber trees, add much to the beauty of the country. Many farmers, however, who rent lands, are enemies to the growth of young trees in hedge-rows, alleging that they do more injury by shading the adjoining fields, than the timber when it

⁶ Luccombe, from the *Mæso-Gothic* *luc-com*; *Sui-Gothic* and *Icelandic*, *luc-s*; *Anglo-Saxon* *belucan*; *Belgic* *luycken*, the same as the *Latin* *claudere*, inclosed or shut up; and the *Anglo-Saxon* *Combe*, a valley; that is, the valley shut up or surrounded by hills.

arrives at maturity is worth ; thus causing their private interests to clash with that of their landlords, to whom the timber is, when well-managed, a source of considerable profit ; besides adding greatly to the beauty of the surrounding country. Where timber trees stand thickly in hedge-rows, they certainly depreciate the value of an estate so far as rent is concerned, and ought always to be so considered by landlords and surveyors ; but that they are a source of both individual and national benefit, no one will be hardy enough even to doubt.

The village of Luccombe, or East-Luccombe, as it is general called, stands at the foot of Dunkery, part of which hill is in this parish, in a small but beautiful valley, full of fine timber trees, and surrounded on all sides except towards the north by high lands. It contains about thirty-eight houses, most of them forming a straggling street near the church. A small stream which rises on Dunkery passes through the village, and after joining another called the *Horner*, at the hamlet of Bossington in Porlock, falls into the sea near Bossington Point. The *Horner* flows from several springs on Dunkery, and from others on Exmoor ; and its course is through a deep winding valley, whose sides for some miles are covered with woods, until it reaches the hamlet of Horner, and thence to Bossington. These streams which are well-stocked with trout, appear in summer to be small rivulets, but in winter, particularly the *Horner*, whose channel is in

many places filled with large stones and masses of rock, become wild mountain torrents.

There are in this parish, three other hamlets or villages; namely, Horner, a mile west of East Luccombe; West-Luccombe, half a mile further; and Doverhay, near the town of Porlock. A small narrow slip of this parish extends quite down to the sea, dividing the parish of Porlock into two parts. To the east of the church, there is a large hill, part of which belongs to Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart., and the rest to Francis Worth, of Wychanger, in this parish, esq. whose father, the late ——— Worth, esq. of Worth-House, near Tiverton, in the county of Devon, who occasionally resided here, gave some mining adventurers from Wales permission to dig for iron ore at Luccombe, and finally granted them a lease, which is yet unexpired. The lessees opened a mine, or rather dug a quarry in part of a field on the top of the hill, and built a small house for a forge, for the purpose of repairing their mining apparatus. Those persons obtained a considerable quantity of iron ore or iron stone; part of which they sent to Wales, where it was smelted, and yielded a profitable proportion of excellent metal; but disagreeing among themselves, they ceased working, and the lease granted by the present owner's father not having yet been surrendered, the mining operations have not been resumed. The bed or mass of iron stone here, as far as it has been examined, is on the very top of the hill, and in some places bassets

out to day, whilst in others it is covered with red sandstone. The eastern bed, which has been opened, does not appear to be more than a few feet thick.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and is appendant to the manor. In Pope Nicholas's taxation, 1292, it was valued at twelve marks. The church of "Dover" is also included in the same taxation, being rated at twelve marks and a half. The rectory of Luccombe, is rated in the king's books, at £14 3s. 6d. In 1757, Richard Lyster, esq. presented to this living, and in 1781, Susanna Wentworth and others. In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, there are the following particulars relating to this benefice:—

1535. John Trevyce, rector.

Annual value of the demesne or glebe

lands	2	5	0
Tithes of wool and lamb	3	2	0
Oblations	0	16	0
Personal tithes and other casualties .	8	12	10
	<hr/>		
	£14	15	10

Out of which there is paid

To the bishop for procura-

tions.....0 2 8

To the archdeacon of Taun-

ton for synodals0 9 8—0 12 4

Clear £14 3 6

Tenths 1 8 4½

The living is at present worth about £400 per annum, and has an excellent parsonage-house and grounds, tastefully laid out by the present incumbent, the Rev. Robert Freke Gould, who was presented to this rectory by his late brother-in-law, the earl of Strafford. The glebe is about sixty acres. The patronage is now in Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart. as lord of the manor.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome gothic structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, separated by a row of columns, their capitals being ornamented with flowers and fruit. At the west end there is an embattled tower, eighty-two feet high, with a clock and five bells. Against the north wall of the chancel, there is a stone monument with an inscription in Latin, in commemoration of the Rev. Henry Byam, D. D. which will be noticed more at length in the biographical sketch of that learned person.

On the same wall, there is a marble monument to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Stawel, rector of this parish forty-three years. He died December 22nd, 1782, aged 84. Elizabeth, his wife, died on the 3rd of August, 1781, aged 73.

In the south aisle, there is a mural monument of stone to the memory of Richard Worth, gent. who died August 17th, 1637; also to Mary his wife, and Richard their son.

On a brass plate, fixed on a stone in the floor, there is this inscription:—"Hic jacet Gulielmus Harrison,

Gener. qui obiit est obdormivit Domino 18 die mensis Dec. A. D. 1615. Annoque *Ætatis suæ* 76."

This William Harrison, gent., on his death, left an only daughter, Mary, married to Richard Worth, who are both commemorated by an inscription in this church. This lady took with her in marriage, the estate of Wychanger, and other property, which has descended to the present Francis Worth, esq. of that place, and his brother John Worth, esq. of Worth-House, Tiverton.

There is likewise in the south aisle, what appears to be a small table monument, with some ornamental sculpture on one end and one side; but I am inclined to think, it is more properly the ancient stone altar belonging to this church before the Reformation, and which has been removed from its former situation into this aisle.

A stone cross stands in the church-yard, with three rows of steps. The shaft is unfortunately broken.

The parish register begins in 1676. When the author of this work was at Luccombe, in the autumn of 1828, he recovered from a mass of old forms of prayer and proclamations, preserved in an ancient chest, the marriage register of this parish, kept during the Cromwell usurpation, which was deposited by the rector, the Rev. Mr. Gould, among the other registers.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £58 14s. 8d., and in 1785,

£98 2s. 6d. In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates, was **£240 5s. 8d.** at **3s. 9½d.** in the pound. In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, as assessed to the property tax, was **£1018.** In 1818, the county rate, was **£1 1s. 2½d.**

In 1801, the resident population of this parish, was 457.

In the population abstract of 1821, the return for Luccombe stands thus:—

Houses inhabited	86
—— uninhabited	5
—— building	0
Families	106
Of whom were employed	
In agriculture	54
In trade	31
All other	21

Persons: viz.

Males	237
Females	244
	<hr/>
	481

In 1815, there were sixty-two poor in this parish.

In 1818, the Rev. Robert Freke Gould, the rector of this parish, states, in his return, that there is only a Sunday School here, and that most of the poor have not the means of education, but would be glad to obtain them.

In the fifteenth Report of the Commissioners of

Charities, printed by order of the House of Commons, in 1826, there is the following account of charities belonging to this parish:—

“There are some early entries in the churchwardens’ books of this parish, by which it appears that Laurence Byam, clerk, gave £10.; that Mr. George Churchey, gave £10.; that Richard Welsh, gave £5.; that Mary Yandall, gave £1.; William Harrison, £10.; Cecil Worth, Jun. £8.; Dr. Byam, £10.; and an unknown person £22.

“All the above gifts, except that of Laurence Byam, (which was given for putting out apprentices) appear to have been given to the poor of the parish, generally, making in the whole £88., out of which £5. appears to have been lost long ago. The sum of £50. other part thereof, appears by the parish books, to have been in the hands of the parish, and to have been expended by them in the year 1777, on the repairs of the poor-house, for which the parish now pay interest at five per cent. The sum of £28. is now in the hands of the Rev. R. F. Gould, the rector; and the sum of £5. in the hands of Mr. Henry Phelps, of Porlock; who pay the like interest for the same respectively, making the whole interest paid £4 3s. 0d. per annum.

“This sum of £4 3s. 0d. is applied by the minister and churchwardens, for the time being, towards the relief of such of the poor as are not upon the parish books, and as appears with a proper selection of the most industrious and respectable.”

At the time of the conquest, Luccombe was divided into two distinct parcels or manors, the one belonging to Ralph de Limesi, and the other to Odo Fitz-Gamelin. The former parcel is thus described:—

“Ralph himself holds **LOCOMBE**; Queen Eddida held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for two hides. The arable land is sufficient for eight ploughs. There are three ploughs and two bondmen in the demesne; and eighteen villans and six bordars have four ploughs. There are five acres of meadow, and fifty acres of wood; a pasture one mile in length, and half a mile in breadth.”⁷

The Exeter Domesday adds, that Ralph held one hide of land in demesne, and the villan tenants the other hide. Ralph had in his demesne lands here, one horse, six bullocks, six hogs, one hundred sheep, and fifty goats.⁸

The other parcel has the following description:—

“Odo Fitz-Gamelin holds **LOCUMBE** of the King. Vitalis holds its of Odo. Fitel held it in the time of king Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for six ploughs. There is one plough and two bondmen in the demesne; eight villans and one bordar have two ploughs and a half. There are two acres of meadow, twelve acres of wood, and fifty acres of pasture. It was formerly and is now worth forty shillings.”⁹

⁷ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 97. ⁸ Exon. D. fo. 428. ⁹ Exchequer. D. vol. i. fo. 96.

The Exeter Domesday adds, that Odo held half a hide in demesne, and the villan tenants the other half hide.

This was the only manor which this Odo or Otho Fitz-Gamelin held in the county of Somerset. He had twenty-four manors in Devonshire. The Vitalis, mentioned as holding this manor of Odo, appears to be the same person as the Saxon Fitel or Fitellus, who held it in the time of King Edward; and that he was one of the few Saxons who were allowed to remain on their own lands.

In the reign of King Edward I. these two parcels of land became united, and belonged to Sir Baldric de Nonington, knight, a person very eminent in those days, and one who was entrusted with many important and public offices. In 1297, (twenty-fifth of Edw. I.) he was returned from the counties of Somerset and Dorset, as holding lands or rents to the amount of £20 yearly value and upwards, either in capite or otherwise; and as such was summoned to perform military service in person, with horses and arms, in parts beyond the seas, and to attend the muster at London, on the 7th of July. In the same year, he was appointed assessor in the county of Dorset, of the eighth and fifth granted for the confirmation of the charter; and also assessor and collector, in the county of Somerset, of the ninth granted by that county for the same purpose. In 1300, (twenty-eighth of Edw. I.) he was returned from the counties

of Somerset, Dorset, and Southampton; as holding lands or rents, either in capite or otherwise, to the amount of £40 yearly value and upwards; and as such was summoned to perform military service against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Carlisle, on the 24th of June. In the following year, he was elected by the community, (*communitas*) of the county of Somerset, to be one of the assessors and collectors of the fifteenth, granted in the parliament at Lincoln, in the preceding year, and was empowered accordingly by a royal commission, to carry the same into execution.¹⁰ He died in the third of Edward II. and by an inquisition was then found to be possessed of a moiety of the manor of Lillesdon, held of the honour of Carisbrooke; of certain tenements in Nunnington in the hundred of Kingsbury-West; of one fardell of land in Mannworth, and twenty acres of land in Horygge, all in the county of Somerset; of lands and tenements in the Isle of Wight; and certain suits of court in Newport.¹¹ He left issue an only daughter and heiress, Margaret, married to Robert de Pudele. The successors of this Robert de Pudele, assumed the local surname of Luccombe, or de Luccombe, from this place of their habitation. In the thirteenth of Edward II. John de Luccombe died seized of this manor; and in the inquisition taken after his decease, is certified to have held it of the king *in capite*, by the service of three knight's fees. To him

¹⁰ Palgrave's Writs of Mil. Summons, &c. vol. i. p. 761.

¹¹ Inq. p. m. 3 Edw. II. vol. 1. p. 237. No. 45.

succeeded Hugh de Luccombe, his son and heir; but he did not hold this manor long, being dead in the sixteenth of Edward II. and leaving one son John, of the age of one year, to succeed him in the estates. This John appears to have died in the nineteenth of Edward II. for in that year, he and Sibilla his wife, were found by an inquisition to hold the manor of Luccombe, as of the honour of Pinkney. To which John succeeded another Hugh, who seems to have died in the same year as the above-mentioned John; for by another inquisition, he was found to hold the fourth part of a knight's fee in each of the manors of Cloudeham, Dover-hay, Leigh-Woodcock, and Harwood; the eighth part of a knight's fee in Linch, and the same in Overholt; the twelfth part of a fee in Luccombe, and the sixteenth part of another fee in Allerford, together with the advowson of the church of Selworthy, all in the county of Somerset.¹² To this Hugh succeeded another John de Luccombe, which John, is found to hold this manor of the king, as of the honour of Pinkney, by the service of four knight's fees. He died in the eighth of Edward III. leaving no issue, whereupon his sister Elizabeth, the wife of Oliver de St. John, became the heiress of his possessions.

This Oliver de St. John, appears to have been succeeded by Alexander de St. John, for in the thirteenth of Edward III. Alexander de St. John, and Elizabeth

¹² Inq. p. m. 19 Edw. II. No. 61.

his wife, were found to be possessed of the manor and church of East Luccombe, and the advowson of the church of Selworthy, held of the honour of Pinkney.¹³ And by another inquisition in the eighth of Henry IV. Henry St. John was found to hold the manor and advowson of the church of East Luccombe, as of the honour of Pinkney; and also the advowson of the church of Selworthy, leaving Edward his son and heir.¹⁴

After this family, the manor was possessed by that of Arundel. In the twenty-second of Edward IV. Joan, the relict of Nicholas Arundel, of Trerice, died seized thereof, together with the advowson of the church, and the manor and advowson of Selworthy, leaving Robert Arundel, his cousin and heir, of the age of fifteen years. The family of Arundel continued in possession of this manor, and of many contiguous estates for many generations. The last Lord Arundel, of Trerice used occasionally to reside at Allerford. He married Miss Wentworth, daughter of William Wentworth, of Hembury, in the county of Dorset, esq. a branch of the Strafford family, and died without issue in 1768.

The noble family of Arundel came into England with William, duke of Normandy; and this branch of it has been seated at Trerice, in the county of Cornwall, from the time of King Edward III.

¹³ Inq. p. m. 4 Rich. II. No. 48.—Cal. vol. ii. p. 331.

¹⁴ Inq. p. m. 8 Hen. IV. No. 21.—Cal. vol. iii. p. 309.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and also in that of James I., John Arundel, esq., was member in several parliaments for the county of Cornwall; and on the breaking out of the civil war in the reign of Charles I., took arms for the king, together with four of his sons, of whom two lost their lives in his majesty's service.

He most courageously held out the castle of Pendennis, nearly at the very end of those unhappy disputes. Lord Clarendon, in speaking of these transactions, says that "Pendennis refused all summons, admitting no treaty, till all their provisions were so far consumed that they had not sufficient left for four and twenty hours; and then they treated and carried themselves with so much spirit, that the enemy concluded they were in no straits; and so gave them the conditions they proposed, which were as good as any garrison in England had accepted. "This castle," says his lordship, "was defended by the governor thereof, John Arundel, of Trerice, an old gentleman of near fourscore years of age, and of one of the best estates and interest in Cornwall; who, with the assistance of his son, Richard Arundel, (who was then a colonel in the army and a stout and diligent officer) maintained and defended the same to the last extremity."

Which Richard Arundel, eldest son of the said John, greatly signalized himself in many battles and sieges on the part of the king; and although he lost his whole estate through the power and success of that party which supported the parliament against Charles

I. yet he did not desert his majesty's cause, but remained faithful to the last. In consideration therefore of his great actions and sufferings, and in memory of his father's services, he was in the sixteenth year of Charles II. (1664,) advanced to the dignity of a baron of this realm, by the style and title of Baron Arundel, of Trerice, with remainder to his issue male. He married Gertrude, daughter of Sir James Bagg, of Saltham, in the county of Devon, widow of Sir Nicholas Slaming, knt. by whom he left issue, John his successor, and died in 1688.

Which John was twice married, first, to Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir John Acland, of Columb-John, knt. by whom he had issue John, who succeeded him, and a daughter, Gertrude, wife of Sir Bennet Hoskins, of the county of Hereford, bart. His lordship married secondly, Barbara, daughter of Sir Henry Slingsby, of the county of York, bart. widow of Sir Richard Mauleverer, bart. by whom he had issue one son, Richard. His lordship died in 1697, and his lady surviving was re-married to Thomas, Earl of Pembroke.

He was succeeded by his eldest son, John, who married Jane, daughter of Dr. William Beau, Lord Bishop of Llandaff, by whom he had issue John, and departed this life in 1706.

John, fourth Lord Arundel, of Trerice, his only son and successor, died in 1768, when the title became extinct.

On the death of Lord Arundel, the manor of Luccombe passed into the family of Wentworth, and ou

the death of Mrs. Wentworth, the relict of the above-mentioned William Wentworth, esq., it became the property of her son, Frederic Thomas Wentworth, esq. who, on the death of his cousin William, second earl of Strafford, of that branch, in the year 1791, succeeded to the title and estates of that ancient family.

The noble family of Wentworth, were anciently seated in Yorkshire, and trace their descent in a direct line from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, fourth son of King Edward III. This Frederic Thomas, earl of Strafford, was the son of William Wentworth, esq. of Hembury, and Susanna his wife, and was born in 1732. After passing through the usual course of education at Eton, he was placed in the first regiment of guards, where his knowledge of the theory, and attention to the practice of his profession, procured him the esteem of his superior officers, at the same time that his social and friendly disposition more immediately attached him to those of his own rank. He resigned, however, the profession of arms; and about the year 1772, married Eliza, the daughter of Thomas Gould, esq. of Milborne St. Andrew, in the county of Dorset, and sister of the Rev. Robert Freke Gould, the present rector of Luccombe. His residence was then fixed in that county, until the death of his father, in 1776, put him in possession of his paternal estate. It was now more particularly his province to enforce, in an official capacity, the observance of the laws of his country; and as a justice of the peace, no man ever more assiduously devoted his time

to hearing cases with attention, and deciding them with scrupulous exactness and rectitude. He died at Nottingham, in his way from Hembury-place, to Wentworth Castle, in Yorkshire, on the 7th of August, 1799. Deceasing without issue, his titles became extinct.

The arms of Wentworth are, *Sable*, a chevron between three leopards' heads, *Or*.

The manor of Luccombe, is now (1829), the property of Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart.; and in addition to that gentleman, the principal landed proprietors are John Worth, esq., Francis Worth, esq., the Rev. R. F. Gould, Clement Poole, esq., Lord King, and Mr. Abraham Clark.

In one of the windows of the south aisle of Luccombe church, there is some good painted glass, the figures being executed with much spirit and in good taste. The Virgin and Child, St. John the Baptist with the Paschal Lamb, and St. Christopher passing a river, with the infant Christ upon his shoulder, are the principal figures. There is a representation, but it is unfortunately broken, of a king holding in his hand the globe surmounted by a cross. From the armorial bearings of the Arundel family being in this window, it is probable that this glass was placed here under the auspices of some person of that family, after coming into the possession of the manor of Luccombe, in the reign of Edward IV.

The history of painted glass in this country, and of the artists who employed themselves in the numerous and beautiful specimens which yet remain in our cathedral, and many of our larger parish churches, would form an interesting display of the progress of art and refined taste. We can trace the invention of painted or stained glass to Germany, France, and the Netherlands; and among the more ancient artists of greater eminence we find the names of Albert Durer and Lucas Van Leyden; and among the moderns, the two Van Linges, Henry Gyles, the Prices, William Peckitt, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, Jarvis, Eginton of Birmingham, and others.

In the windows of several churches were placed the portraits of a genealogical series of their founders and benefactors; some of which have survived the decays of time and the rage of fanatics, but in an imperfect state. Mr. Walpole denominated two crowned heads, which he procured, Henry III. and his Queen; and many with curled hair and forked beards, are said to represent the Edwards, Richard II. and Henry IV. from that fashion being prevalent in their reigns, and remarkable on their coins, which circumstance, on a cursory view, may justify the surmise. Generally speaking, the whole length figures, with crowns and sceptres, are imaginary Jewish monarchs, connected with some scriptural history; but when exhibited in profile, are universally so. Bishops and Abbots, may, by fair conjecture, be supposed to be portraits; they are discriminated by their holding the pastoral staff in their right or left hand, the former only performing the office of benediction. A difficulty, however, occurs in fixing with satisfaction, the true era of historical subjects on stained glass, which are not absolutely scriptural.

Amongst the series of portraits which are known to have existed, or are still remaining, are those of the Clares (engraven in Carter's *Ancient Sculpture and Painting*), and Despencers, earls of Gloucester, at Tewkesbury; the first knights of the garter, at Stamford, in Lincolnshire (in Ashmole's *History of the Garter*); the Fitzalans, at Arundel; and the Beauchamps, at Warwick. These consist of many individuals, each of whom is characterized by an escutcheon, or surcoat of arms. For such information, we are chiefly indebted to Sir

W. Dugdale and other ingenious heralds, who did not omit to delineate all the armorial portraits which they found in their provincial visitations.

In the old church at Greenwich was the portrait of Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, with his surcoat of armorial distinction. No other marks can positively ascertain the resemblance of the founders and benefactors, sometimes seen in our parish churches. At Baliol and Queen's colleges are some of the most ancient figures of ecclesiastics in Oxford; and at All Souls, are some small whole-lengths, well executed, and certainly of the age of the founder, Archbishop Chicheley.

In the church of the priory of Little Malvern, in Worcestershire, are the portraits of Edward IV., his queen, their daughter Elizabeth of York, and her sisters, which are likewise seen in a window, contributed by that monarch to Canterbury cathedral. Sir Reginald Bray, a favourite of Henry VII., who built the church of Great Malvern, placed therein the portraits in stained glass of Henry VII. his Queen, Prince Arthur, Sir John Savage, Sir Thomas Lovel, and himself, all in surcoats of arms, and very richly executed.

The window of St. Margaret's, Westminster, the subject of which is the Crucifixion, was intended by the magistrates of Dort, in Holland, as a present to King Henry VII. whose portrait and that of his royal consort are introduced. So excellent is this performance, that five years were spent in completing it. Having been first placed in Waltham Abbey, and removed in 1540, by Henry VIII. to the chapel of his palace, at New Hall, in Essex, it was restored by William Price, for Mr. Conyers, of Copthall, and purchased in 1758, for £400. Stained glass was brought from Rouen, in 1317, for Exeter Cathedral, the west window of which was put up in 1390. The Cathedral of Salisbury, is said to have been furnished both with painted and plain glass, even in the thirteenth century, soon after the erection of that splendid pile, and the windows at New College, and Merton, Oxford, are certainly contemporary with Edward III.

The great east window at York, so justly celebrated as one of the most splendid specimens of painting on glass, was the work of Thomas

Thompson, of Coventry, in the reign of Henry IV. when it is probable, that the art had existed in England, at least for a century. Glaziers, if they deserve not the name of artists, who composed figures and histories, were established in London, Southwark, Coventry, Bristol, and York.

The stained glass in the church of Fairford, in Gloucestershire, has long been the boast of that county. About the year 1492, John Tame, a wealthy merchant, of London, took a Spanish vessel, bound from a Flemish port for South America, laden with this treasure; and according to the expensive piety of those days, founded a church of very regular gothic, for its reception. There are twenty-five of these highly embellished windows, the best of which is the third, in the north aisle. The subject is the Salutation of the Virgin, in which there is a fine architectural perspective of the Temple. The great windows, both east and west, retain their original perfection. Of the first mentioned, the subject is Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, in which the effect of the crimson velvet and gilding, is truly surprising; and the subject of the other, is the Last Judgment. Gothic fancy has been indulged to the extreme in these designs; and so brilliant are the colours, and so delicate the drapery of the smaller figures in this assemblage, that an equally interesting specimen of ancient art, will rarely be found either in England, or on the Continent.

In Italy, the walls of their churches are adorned with mosaic, or with paintings in fresco, and the windows are, in general, small, and a minor part only of internal architecture. At Brussels and Ratisbon, the stained glass is particularly fine. Neither at Rome, nor in other Italian cities, are there any decorations of this kind, which have a great degree of merit, excepting in the convent of Santa Maria Novella, at Florence, where the stained glass nearly resembles that at Fairford, both in design and execution. There is a tradition that the famous Albert Durer furnished the latter drawings, which however, will not bear the test of chronology, for he was not twenty years of age when these windows were put up, nor is it probable that he had then attained to such proficiency.

It will be deplored by the lovers of ecclesiastical magnificence that during the civil commotions in the reign of Charles I. and to prevent the sacrilegious destruction committed by Cromwell's soldiers, whose rage against painted windows was insatiable, that so little opportunity or skill was found by many, who wished to preserve those venerable decorations after the restoration. Some care was taken to replace the fractured pieces, or such as had been concealed, in a more perfect state, in their original stations, so as to complete their designs. But it must be confessed, that the persons employed either despaired of success, or were extremely incompetent to the task, and therefore fitted the pieces together in haste, and without arrangement. Fortunately for this beautiful art, more taste and more patience have been exerted in our own times, and artists have been found, who under the directions of connoisseurs, have succeeded admirably in restoring them to their pristine beauty.

After the Reformation in England, we may trace a new era of stained glass, which may be said to have commenced with the seventeenth century. The prejudices of the first reformers, having relaxed in certain points, relative to internal decoration of churches, the introduction of so splendid a mass of ornament, and of one so congenial with the architecture still remaining, was no longer proscribed by a positive injunction. Our commercial intercourse with the Netherlands, where the arts had begun to flourish, and where a school of painting had been established, facilitated the acquirement of stained glass, which emerging from its former rudeness, now exhibited a certain regularity of design. During the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. armorial bearings and small portraits in circles, were the usual decoration of the bay windows in the great manerial halls; but complete scriptural histories, in which the figures were well designed and grouped, were rarely seen, excepting in the private chapels of the houses of the nobility.

About the middle of the reign of James I. Bernard Van Linge, a Fleming, is supposed to have settled in England, but was, at all events, the father of glass painting in its renewed and improved state in this kingdom. It was a popular notion, that before Van Linge's time, the

art was totally lost to us, but this was founded in ignorance of the true fact; it was indeed dormant, but never extinct; for there is no great interruption in the chain of chronological history to the present day.

Upon Van Linge's leaving England, or at his death, the art was certainly dormant. Those who were employed to refit the mutilated windows after the Restoration, were incapable of any original work; and the first evidence that occurs of any good artist, is of Henry Gyles, of York, who appears to have established a school of glass painting, in that city, which continued its reputation for more than a century. He finished a window at University College, Oxford, in 1687. William Price, the elder, was his most able scholar and successor, who first acquired fame by his Nativity after Thornhill, at Christ Church, in 1696. His brother, Joshua Price, restored with great success, the windows of Queen's College, which had been broken by the Puritans. William Price, the younger, was employed upon the windows in Westminster Abbey, which were voted by Parliament, and put up in 1722, and 1735, but his chief merit was in his designs and arrangement of mosaic. Of the same school, established at York, was William Peckitt, whose proficiency was inferior to that of his predecessors, and who produced only an extreme brilliancy of colours.

During the last reign, a new style of stained glass has been practised, which is the boast and peculiar invention of our own artists. The deviation from the hard outline of the early Florentine or Flemish schools, to the correct contour of Michael Agnuolo, or the gorgeous colours of Rubens, is not more decidedly marked, than the design and execution of the Van Linges and Prices, and the masterly performances of Jarvis. A striking deficiency in the composition of the early artists, was the necessity of surrounding the different colours, of which the figures consisted, with lead, and destroying by that means, the harmony of the outline. Harshness was the unavoidable effect, which they knew not either how to correct or obviate.

Among modern artists, Jarvis was first distinguished for exquisitely finishing small subjects. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, have jointly executed numerous small pieces of very great merit; and Forrest, the most suc-

cessful pupil of Jarvis, has finished some very fine works for St. George's Chapel, Windsor. But of modern proficient in this exquisite art, one of the most eminent was Eginton, of Handsworth, near Birmingham. His excellence was progressive, and his industry duly encouraged, there being nearly fifty considerable works by his hand.

This brief account of an art, not more venerable than splendid, may be concluded by observing, that glass is the most perfect vehicle both of sound and colour. How exquisitely refined are the tones of the Harmonica, or Musical Glasses, when touched with delicacy and skill! And how much have the most expressive tints of the most celebrated painters gained by their being transferred over the surface of the "storied window."¹⁴

HORNER.

The hamlet of Horner contains nine houses, and is so called from a considerable mountain stream of the same name.¹⁵ The picturesque and romantic valley through which the Horner winds is bounded by very high hills, clothed with magnificent woods; it is in some parts narrow, in others expanding into large reaches of flat ground, covered with majestic oak, ash, and forest trees of every description, interspersed with the euonymus, holly, white-thorn, and mountain-ash. This stream is broken perpetually by masses of rock obstructing its channel, and forming it into a series of cascades. Every tree is a lesson for the pencil.

There is a large quarry of the new red sand-stone in the central part of this village.

¹⁴ Vide Dallaway's *Anecdotes of the Arts in England*.

¹⁵ HORNER—from the British *Horner*, the Snorer, from the peculiar sonorous noise it makes in its course.—*Tour in Quest of Genealogy*.

WEST LUCCOMBE.

The hamlet of West Luccombe contains eight houses.

DOVER-HAY.

The hamlet of Dover-Hay is situated in the vicinity of Porlock. Its name seems to be derived from the British *Dwr*, water, to which has more recently been added the French adjunct *hay*, an inclosure ; that is, the inclosed water.

It is thus described in Domesday Book :—

“Alric holds of Roger de Corcelle, DOURI. Eddeve held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one virgate of land. The arable is sufficient for one plough. There are two villans and one bordar. It is worth eight shillings.”¹⁶

The Exeter Domesday says “it is worth seven shillings and six-pence ; and when Roger de Corcelle received it, ten shillings.”¹⁷

The manor of Dover-Hay, with those of *West Luccombe* and *Wichanger*, in respect of descent, passed nearly in the same manner as that of East Luccombe.

It would appear from Pope Nicholas's taxation, in 1291, that there was then a church at Dover-Hay, as its valuation is included in that of Luccombe.

Previously to the twenty-sixth of Edward I. the

¹⁶ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 94.

¹⁷ Exon D. fo. 403.

villages of Dover-Hay and East and West Luccombe, with their woods, heaths, and appurtenances, had been included by encroachment within the boundary of the forest of Exmoor; but in that year they were disafforested, according to the tenor of the charter of forests, and entirely freed from the oppressive restrictions of the forest laws.

GENEALOGICAL MEMOIR OF THE FAMILY OF BYAM,
OF LUCCOMBE.

The family of BYAM originally came into Somersetshire, from the county of Monmouth. They were of an ancient stock in the latter county, and in South Wales; and, according to a pedigree in the Heralds' College, trace their ancestors as high as the fifth century.

In the year 1575, Queen Elizabeth presented the Rev. Laurence Byam to the rectory of Luccombe,¹⁸ and in 1578, he married Agnes, daughter of Henry Ewens, of Capton, in the parish of Stogumber, by whom he had four sons and three daughters, namely, 1. Henry, of whom hereafter; 2. John; 3. Edward; 4. William; 5. Anne; 6. Christiana; and 7. Mary.

¹⁸ There was a Thomas Byam, of this family, who was prebendary of Bromesbury, in the cathedral church of St. Paul, London, in the reign of Queen Mary; but according to Dr. Bliss's Notes to Wood's Fasti, he was deprived on the accession of Elizabeth, as it would appear, for his adherence to the Roman Catholic creed. He was succeeded in his prebendal stall, by Dr. Matthew Hutton, afterward archbishop of York.

This Mary Byam married Francis Pierce, by whom she had several children; and who was the ancestor of Mr. Francis Pierce, now living (1829) at Bratton-Court, in the parish of Minehead. Her eldest son, Francis, is named by his uncle, Dr. Henry Byam, together with Thomas Henley, both of whom he denominates his "kinsmen," as "overseers of his will." But what relationship there was between the Doctor and Thomas Henley, has not been discovered.

1. Henry Byam, the eldest son was born at Luccombe, on the 31st of August, 1580; and in 1597, was entered of Exeter College, Oxford, from which, two years afterward, he was elected a student of Christ Church. In both colleges he applied himself to his studies with so much industry, that he was esteemed among the greatest ornaments of the university; and when he took orders, one of the most acute and eminent preachers of the age. After taking the degree of B. D. in 1612, he succeeded his father in the rectory of Luccombe, and the Rev. William Fleet, his father-in-law, in the adjoining parish of Selworthy. In 1636, he was presented to a prebendal stall in the cathedral church of Exeter; and on the meeting of parliament, was unanimously chosen by the clergy of his diocese to be their proctor in convocation. In the beginning of the civil war, he was one of the first who were arrested for their loyalty, but making his escape, joined the king at Oxford, where he was, with others, created doctor in divinity. In the king's cause his zeal, and

that of his family, could not fail to render him obnoxious. He had not only assisted in raising men and horses for his majesty's service, but of his five sons, four were captains in the royal army. His estate, therefore, both clerical and private, was exposed to the usual confiscations;¹⁹ and to add to his sufferings, his wife and daughter, in endeavouring to escape to Wales by sea, from the cruelties of their persecutors, were both drowned. When Prince Charles, afterward Charles II., fled from England, Dr. Byam accompanied him first to the island of Scilly, and afterward to that of Jersey, where he officiated as chaplain, until the garrison was taken by the parliamentary forces. After this he lived in obscurity until the Restoration, when he was made canon of Exeter and prebendary of Wells; but we do not find that his services were rewarded by any higher preferment. Wood,²⁰ speaks of him in the warmest terms: "At the Restoration he might have obtained whatever he would have asked, but contented himself only with what his majesty was pleased freely to bestow upon him. However, had not his own modesty stood in the way, it is well known that his majesty's bounty towards him would not have rested here, but he must have died a bishop; which honourable function he really deserved, not only for his sanc-

¹⁹ In the list of gentlemen in the county of Somerset who compounded for their estates, Henry Byam, of Luccombe, clerk, occurs. The sum which he paid to the sequestrators as composition, was £49 4s. 8d.

²⁰ *Athens Oxonienses*, by Bliss, vol. iii. p. 836.

tity of life, but for his learning, charity, and loyalty, scarcely to be equalled by any in the age in which he lived."

He died on the 16th of June, 1669, and was buried in the chancel of the church of Luccombe, where a monument, with the following inscription by Dr. Hamnet Ward, was erected to his memory :—

" Non procul hinc sub Marmore congenito, sepultum jacet corpus HENRICI BYAM, ex antiquissimâ Byamorum familiâ oriundi; sacrosanctæ theologiæ doctoris insignissimi, hujus ecclesiæ et proximæ Selworthianæ rectoris, pastorisque vigilantissime; ecclesiæ cathedralis Exoniensis canonici, ecclesiæque Wellensis prebendarii serenissimæ majestatis Caroli secundi regis capellani et concionatoris ordinarii, necnon ejusdem, (sæviente illâ tyrannide, et semper execrandâ fanaticorum rebellione) terra marique comitis, exulisque simul. Ex meliore luto ejus constructum corpus post annos tandem octoginta et novem, anno salutis millesimo sexcentesimo sexagesimo nono, morti non triumphanti quam invitanti placide cessit. Sed extat adhuc viri hujus optimi celebrius multo hoc et ornatius monumentum, non marmore perituro, sed typis exaratum perpetuis, scripta; scilicet ejus plane divina; ubi animi vires, et summum ejus ingenii acumen, intueberis simul et miraberis. Lugubrem hunc lapidem honoris et reverentiæ indicem posuit filius ejus obsequentissimus Franciscus Byam: Instauratum a Mariâ et Cecilia Wood, Anno Dom. 1713."

Arms.—*Argent*, three boars' heads erased, *Vert*.

In English thus :—

" Near this place, under a kindred marble, lies interred the body of HENRY BYAM, descended from the ancient family of the Byams—a most eminent divine, rector, and a vigilant pastor of this and the adjoining church of Selworthy, canon of the cathedral church of

Exeter, and prebendary of the church of Wells, chaplain and preacher in ordinary to his most serene majesty, King Charles II. ; and moreover, during the raging of that civil storm and ever-execrable rebellion of fanatics, a companion of the same monarch by sea and land, and an exile with him. After having lived eighty and nine years, in the year of salvation, 1669, he calmly yielded to death, who, however, did not so much triumph over him, as invite him to a calm repose. There is, however, remaining a more celebrated and elegant monument than this of this excellent man, written, not in perishable marble, but in ever-durable materials, namely, his more than human writings, where you will at once behold and admire his strength of mind and the consummate shrewdness of his understanding.

“ His most dutiful son, Francis Byam, erected this monument as a mark of honour and respect to his memory.

“ Renewed by Mary and Cecilia Wood, 1713.”

His works were “Thirteen Sermons, most of them preached before his majesty Charles II. in his exile, Lond. 1675,” octavo. These were published after his death by Hamnet Ward, M. D. vicar of Sturminster-Newton, in the county of Dorset, with some account of the author.²¹ They were delivered, as the title imports, before the King in the islands of Scilly and Jersey, at which time Dr. Byam was chaplain in ordinary to his majesty, who was his constant auditor, admiring equally his learning and his loyalty. Among them are these two latin sermons:—*Osculum Pacis: Concio ad Clerum habita Exoniæ in trien. Visitat. D. Jos. Hall Episc. Exon. in S. Marc. cap. 9, ver. ult.*—And *Nativitas Christi; Concio in Æd. S. Mar. Ox. habita pro Gradu An. 1612, in Matth. cap. 1. ver. 18.*—Also his sermon entitled, “A Return from Argier, preached at Minehead, in Somerset, 16th March, 1627, at the re-admission of a relapsed Christian into our church, on Rev. ii. part of the 5th verse.” Dr.

²¹ Wood's Athen. Oxon, by Bliss, vol. iii. p. 536.—Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy, p. 29.—Chalmers's Biograph. Dict. vol. vii.

Byam, continues Wood, left at his death other pieces, which were fairly written by his own hand, and ready for the press.

Dr. Byam married about 1615, Susan, daughter and one of the co-heiresses of the Rev. William Fleet, rector of Selworthy; whom, as I have already mentioned, he succeeded in that living. By this lady he had issue five sons and four daughters, namely, 1. William; 2. Henry; 3. Francis; 4. John; 5. Laurence; 6. Mary; 7. Susan; 8. Cecily; and 9. a daughter, whose name is not known, but who was drowned in 1642 with her mother, in attempting to cross the Bristol Channel into Wales, to avoid the persecutions of the republican party.

Dr. Byam's will, dated on the 30th of April, 1669, a short time before his death, is in the prerogative court of Canterbury, in London; and in it, his sons, William and Francis are constituted his executors, and have various lands lying in Luccombe, Porlock, Stoke-Pero, and other places, bequeathed to them. Francis, the third son, proved his father's will, and erected the monument to his memory, now remaining in Luccombe church; and was living with his eldest brother William, in 1672; but when or where they died is not known. Henry, the second son, was slain in the king's service at sea; and John, the fourth son, lost his life in the same service, in Ireland. Of Laurence, the fifth son, I am not able to give any account. Susan Byam, the second daughter, married

William Dyke, of King's Brompton, Wootton-Courtenay and Brushford, and died in 1648 or 1649, leaving an only son, William, upon whose death, without issue it probably was, that the ancestor on the maternal side of the present Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart., Thomas Dyke succeeded to the estates of his nephew. Cecily Byam, the third daughter, married John Wood, of Luccombe, gent., by whom she had five sons and two daughters; namely, 1. John; 2. Henry; 3. Charles; 4. Lawrence; 5. Byam; the daughters were Mary and Cecily, both of whom are mentioned as having restored the monument in Luccombe church of their grandfather, Dr. Henry Byam. There was a Byam Wood, probably a descendant of one of the five sons of John and Cecily Wood, living at Luccombe in 1741; for it appears by the register of that parish, that he had a son born in that year; and either he, or his son, appears to have had large property in it some years afterward, when, bequeathing what remained to him after an imprudent course of life to his widow, the latter is said to have left it to a maid-servant, one Mary Gillman, about the year 1776, at which time all traces of this branch of the family seem to be lost sight of.

I now return to *John*, the second son of the Rev. Laurence Byam and Agnes Ewens, and next brother to Dr. Henry Byam. He was entered of Exeter College, Oxford, on the 12th of October, 1599, being then sixteen years of age. He was afterward rector of Clatworthy, in this county, and, like his brother Henry,

was a great sufferer on account of his loyalty. At the time that Colonel Edmund Wyndham was governor of Dunster Castle, which he held for King Charles I., that officer resisted for some time the forces sent against him by the parliament, and this John Byam being one of his most intimate friends, wrote to him, exhorting him in the strongest terms to hold the castle to the last extremity against the parliamentary forces; but at length being obliged to capitulate, this letter was unfortunately found, and Mr. Byam was immediately sent under a military escort to prison at Wells, having been most barbarously treated on the road by an irritated soldiery. Walker, in his account of the Sufferings of the Clergy, says that he left in writing an account of the outrageous treatment he received, which paper is supposed to be yet in existence, but not known where; and which, if it could now be found, would probably throw great light on the dormant state of some of the ancient property of this family.

This John Byam had two wives; the first, Sarah, who died in 1627, and the second, Edith, in 1668, by which ladies he had three sons and three daughters. Of the sons, William and John, died without issue, the former in the parish of St. John the Evangelist in London, in 1654; and the latter at Clatworthy, in 1642, in the fifteenth year of his age. Henry the eldest son of the Rev. John Byam left issue three sons, John, Henry, and William, the two first born at Clatworthy, in 1646 and 1648. John, the eldest, died in

India, in 1690, without issue. The daughters of the Rev. John Byam were 1. Anne, married to John Sydenham, of Morebath, son of Thomas Sydenham of Whitstone, in this county; 2. Susanna, the wife of George Peppin, ancestor of the Peppins of Dulverton; a third daughter married the Rev. Thomas Balch, of the family of that name who afterward resided at St. Audries, and rector of Tavistock, in Devonshire.

Edward Byam, third son of the Rev. Laurence Byam and Agnes Ewens, was entered of Exeter College, Oxford, on the 31st of October, 1600, being then sixteen years of age. He was afterward vicar of Dulverton, where he married, but what was the name of his wife I am not able to find. He had, however, several sons and daughters, namely, Edward, baptized at Dulverton, Nov. 19, 1621; William, April 7, 1623; John, Nov. 15, 1625; Sarah, Jan. 26, 1616; Margaret, March 26, 1618; and Elizabeth, April 30, 1619. The marriages of the daughters are not exactly known, but it is believed that Sarah, the eldest, was the wife of a gentleman named Morley; and Elizabeth, the youngest, of one of the name of Kingsmill. Edward, the eldest son, died without issue, and was succeeded by his next brother, William. This William Byam, was the founder of the BYAMS of the island of Antigua. In the time of the Commonwealth, he possessed an estate in the neighbourhood of Bridgwater, and commanded a party in that town against the parliament, but the temper and

disposition of the times being adverse to the king, he withdrew to the island of Barbadoes, where he was commissioner for the king, and obtained very advantageous terms for the inhabitants on the surrender of that island to the parliament in 1651. A considerable body of royalists left Barbadoes in 1654, and established themselves in Guiana, where they chose this Mr. William Byam as their governor.²² Here he continued till the restoration of King Charles II. when he came over to England to endeavour to recover the estates which had been alienated on account of the active part which he had taken against the parliament; but a vicious maxim prevailing at that time, (which has not been forgotten on some occasions since), that the king ought to endeavour to gain over his enemies by allowing them to enjoy the plunder they had obtained, and that his friends would still be his friends from principle alone, Mr. Byam was obliged to return without being able to accomplish his purpose. He, however, obtained a confirmation of his office of governor of Surinam and Guiana, which settlements, however, did not much longer belong to the English, being by the treaty of Breda, in 1667, and that of Westminster, in 1673-4, ceded to the Dutch in exchange for the province of New-York in North America. In consequence of this event, Mr. Byam and a part of the colony removed to

²² This gentleman is the governor alluded to in Southern's play of "Oroonoko," whom the profligate Mrs. Behn endeavoured to stigmatize from feelings of private revenge.

Antigua, where he was still continued by his majesty as governor of that island; and where he died in 1670. By his will, dated in the preceding year, he bequeathed his "estates in whatever part of the world situated," betwixt his three sons, William, Willoughby, and Edward, to be equally divided amongst them; but notwithstanding which, being all of them minors at the time of their father's death, and not being properly instructed in their rights, nor subsequently able to pursue them, their descendants have ever since lost sight of the patrimonial estate at Luccombe; to which, on the extinction of the elder branch in the lineal descendants of Dr. Henry Byam, they seem in right reason to be as much entitled as to that which they actually and exclusively enjoyed near Bridgwater, nothing barring their present possession but the effects of the ancient loyalty of the family, for which Dr. Henry Byam was so celebrated, and his brother John not less distinguished.

The present representative of the family of Byam, is Mr. Edward Samuel Byam, now living (1829) at Cheltenham, who is the great, great grandson of the Hon. William Byam, governor of Surinam and Guiana, and of the island of Antigua, in the reign of King Charles II.

SELWORTHY.²³

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—ANCIENT ENCAMPMENT.—BURY CASTLE.—
RECTORY.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—MANOR.—DOMES-
DAY SURVEY.—EDITHA, QUEEN OF EDWARD THE CONFESSOR.—
HAMLETS.—ALLERFORD.—BLACKFORD.—WEST-LYNCH.—KNOLL.
—HOLNICOT.—TENURE IN FRANK-ALMOIGNE.

THE parish of Selworthy is bounded on the north by the Bristol Channel; on the east by the parish of Minehead, and a detached part of that of Timberscombe; on the south-east and south by the parishes of Wootton-Courtenay and Luccombe; and on the west by that of Porlock. It is divided into two tithings, Allerford and Blackford, and contains five hamlets, namely, Allerford, Holnicot, Blackford, West-Lynch, and Knoll. The village of Selworthy is distant from Porlock two miles, and nearly three west from Minehead.

The cultivated lands of this parish are situated on the southern slope of the western part of the high hill,

²³ The name of Selworthy seems to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Salh*, *Salig*, the same as the Latin *Salix*, a willow, a sallow tree, withy, or osier;—and *worth*, the same as the Latin *prædium*, *fundus*, *atrium*, a dwelling; that is, the dwelling among willows or osiers.

the termination of which on that side is Orestone, or Bossington Point, in the parish of Porlock, as Greenaleigh, in the parish of Minehead, is on the eastern side. Generally speaking, the best land here is that which is lowest down the hill, and it gradually decreases in quality and value the higher you ascend. Sir Thomas Dyke Acland has added greatly to the natural beauties of this parish by planting many acres of poor land, of little or no value before, with timber trees, which appear to thrive well. Through some of these plantations, he has caused paths to be made, which command delightful views of the vales of Luccombe, Holnicot, and Porlock; the bay of Porlock, the foreland near Lymouth, and the mountainous range of Dunkery and Exmoor. Some way up the slope, by the entrance of a deep glen, which runs up into the hill called here North Hill, stands the church, parsonage-house, and village of Selworthy; the latter being perhaps the most rural and beautifully-situated village in this very beautiful country. Through this glen runs a small stream over a channel, which time and the swelling of the waters which descend from the hills above, have worn into a deep and rocky chasm, where grow many withies and poplars. On both sides of this glen, through which a road runs to Minehead, the hills rise very precipitously; and on the summit of that on the western side there is an ancient encampment of an elliptical form, consisting of a rampart of stones and earth, and on all sides, except towards the glen, it has a deep fosse. The

area is about an acre and a half. The ground to the west and south-west of this camp is a plain, and upon it, at about seventy or eighty yards from the former, another large rampart has been thrown up, which does not seem ever to have been finished; it having the appearance of having been intended to be an out-work in connexion or communication with the principal camp. On the north-east side of this camp a part of the rampart has been thrown down into the fosse, which it has more than filled, and it now forms a small mound of a barrow-like form. It may be supposed that the principal work had been taken by storm by an enemy, the slain being thrown into the fosse, and a part of the rampart heaped upon them. This encampment is called "Bury Castle."

The parish of Selworthy contains two thousand and sixty-five acres of inclosed land, besides commons. The principal proprietors are Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart.; Admiral Douglas; — Beague, Esq.; the Rev. R. F. Gould, and Mr. Clarke.

The living is a rectory, in the deanery of Dunster, and in Pope Nicholas's taxation, (1291) was valued at six marks and a half. The abbot of Athelney had a pension out of it of three marks, given to that monastery by Richard de Luccombe, about the year 1200, out of his demesne lands in this parish. The dean and chapter of Eton had also a pension of twenty shillings

out of this church.²⁴ The living is valued in the king's books at £12 15s. 4d. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* there are the following particulars relating to this benefice:—

1535. Richard Denyse, Rector.

Annual value of the demesne, or

glebe lands	1	6	8
Tithes of wool and lamb.....	3	3	4
Predial tithes	8	0	0
Personal tithes and other casualties..	3	15	0
	<hr/>		
	£16	5	0

Out of which sum there is paid

To the abbot of Athelney . 2 0 0

— dean and chapter of

Eton..... 1 0 0

— archdeacon of Taunton 0 9 8—3 9 8

Clear.....£12 15 4

Tenths.... 1 5 6½

By an inquisition taken in the nineteenth of Edward II. (1326) Hugh de Luccombe; then recently deceased, was found to be possessed of the advowson of this church.²⁵

And by another inquisition taken in the fourth of

²⁴ The pension of two pounds per annum anciently paid to the abbot of Athelney is now paid to two ladies of the name of Tyrwhitt; and the annual pension of twenty shillings which was paid to the dean and chapter of Eton, is now paid to the chamber of Bristol.

²⁵ Inq. p. m. 19 Edw. II.—Calendar, vol. i. p. 325. No. 61

Richard II. (1380) Oliver de St. John and Elizabeth his wife were found to hold the advowson of the church of Selworthy, as of the honour of Pinkney.²⁶

In 1692, the earl of Arundel presented to the living; in 1724, Lord Arundel of Trerice, and in 1780, Susanna Wentworth, widow.

Sir Thomas Dyke Acland is the present patron of the living, which is worth about £300 per annum.

The church, which is dedicated to All-saints, stands considerably above the level of the vale, commanding a fine view of it on the south, and sheltered on the north by North Hill. It consists of a nave, chancel, and north and south ailes, separated by two rows of light and elegantly clustered pillars, supporting bluntly pointed arches. The roof is ceiled with wood, divided into square compartments, each angle of the square being ornamented with a sculptured quatrefoil, or shield, bearing some grotesque figures. There is a neat gallery for the singers, with the date 1750; and the Fortescue family, who reside at Holnicot, have their pew elegantly formed over the church porch, with a projection opening into the church, in the manner of a balcony. There is a date round one of the pillars, but not older than the beginning of the sixteenth century. An embattled tower, forty-five feet high, at the west end, contains a clock and six bells.

There is a tradition that the present barn of the par-

²⁶ Inq. p. m. 4 Ric. II.—Calendar, vol. iii. p. 31. No. 48.

sonage had, during the rebuilding,²⁷ or thorough reparation of the church, been used as a substitute. There is on the north side, the stone frame of a Gothic window still remaining, and the whole fabric appears very ancient.

The parsonage house, about one hundred yards from the church, is an ancient building, fitted up in a neat modern style, and with a considerable degree of taste. There are about fifty-five acres of glebe land belonging to the rectory.

In the chancel is a brass plate, with the following inscription :—

“Epitaphium Gulielmi Fleete pastoris regis Domini apud Selworthiensis qui diem obiit quinto die Januarij anno Domini 1617;” and a Latin epitaph, with the following translation :—

Here dead I lye in earth, intombd in the grave,
My funeralls in swanlike sort, myself indited have ;
London my birth, my bringing up Winton & Oxon had,
Where taught I was with Wickhams flock among the grave and sad,
Thence Selworthye in Somerset, this place of worth & fame,
Me kept for wholesome aire and soile most worthy of that name,
Where forty years and eight I taught God's flock both young and old,
And did to them, as mete it was, God's holy word unfold ;
And in these forenamed places all my time and life did spend,
What now remains but y^e my soule above the starrs shall wend,
For this my mortal life once done I know & I am sure
An everlasting life wth Christ God will for me procure.

²⁷ The tradition that the church was rebuilt seems to be in some degree confirmed by comparing the style of the tower with the other parts of the edifice, the latter appearing to be of more recent date.

In the chancel:—"Underneath this stone lye interred the remains of the Rev. D. Williams, 22 years rector of this parish, who departed this life the first of September, 1802, aged 72.—*Magnus Homo acer memorabilis.*"

"In this chancel are deposited the remains of Hannah Brice, wife of the Rev. Nathaniel Blake Brice, who was buried March 20, 1767, aged 57; and four of their children."

A brass plate commemorates Robert Siderfin, gent. who died Jan. 20th, 1714, aged 25; and Walter Siderfin, gent. who died March 21, 1731, aged 40.

In the south aisle, there is an elegant mural monument of white and grey marble, with the following inscription:—"Near this is deposited the body of William Blackford, late of Holnicot, in this parish, esq. and also the body of Henrietta his wife. He was the eldest son and heir of William Blackford, of the same place, esq. by Elizabeth the daughter of John Dyke, of Pixton, in the parish of Dulverton, in this county, esq. He died the 10th day of March, 1730, in the 37th year of his age.—She was one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Joseph Collett, late of Hertford Castle, in the county of Hertford, esq. and sometime president of Fort St. George, in the East Indies. She died the 13th day of September, 1727, in the 23rd year of her age.

"Henrietta Blackford, their only daughter and heiress, died the 16th day of December, 1732, in the 7th year of her age."

Arms—*Gules*, a chevron, *Argent*, between three estoiles, *Or*; an escutcheon of pretence, on a chevron between three horses passant, *Argent*, three orles, *Sable*.

On two brass plates on the floor of the south aisle:—
 “Heere lyeth the body of Anthony Staynings, the sonne of Charles Staynings of Holnicot, esq. who died May 19th 1635.”—“Here lyeth the body of Cecill Staynings, sometye the wife of Charles Staynings of Holnicot, esq. by whom he had seven sons and six daughters. She died June 21, 1646, aged 47.”

In the same aisle there is a monument of white and grey marble, with this inscription:—“Sacred to the memory of Charles Staynings, esq. of Holnicot in this parish, the last of that ancient family, and of Susannah his wife, daughter to Sir Nicholas Martyn, late of Oxton, in the county of Devon, knt. She departed this life the 8th of May, 1685; he Dec. 4, 1700, aged 78.”—
 Arms, *Argent*, a bat displayed *Sable*, Staynings: impaling, *Argent*, two bars *Gules*, Martyn.

In the middle aisle:—“In memory of John Clarke, of West-Lynch, in the parish of Selworthy, who departed this life 26 Feb. 1796, aged 90 years.”

“In memory of Mary Clarke, wife of John Clarke, jun. of West-Lynch, in the parish of Selworthy, who departed this life 12 Jan. 1795, aged 48.”

“Here lieth the body of Judith Horne, deceased 26 June, 1632.”

There are two brass plates nearly covered by a pew

in the south aisle. One of them is in black letter ; and the two following lines are visible on the other :—

“ This grave’s a cradle where an infant lies,
 “ Rockt fast asleep with death’s sad lullabyes.”

In the church yard there is an ancient stone cross.

RECTORS OF SELWORTHY.

Rev. William Fleet, died 1617.

1617. Henry Byam, D.D.

1673. John Wood.

1692. William Galard, died 1723.

1723.

—— Nathaniel Blake Brice.

1780. David Williams.

1802. Joshua Stephenson, the present Rector.

The earliest date of the parish register is 1673.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £70 11s. In 1783, £84 7s. 6d. In 1784, £59 1s. 3d. In 1785, £67 10s.

In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £210 18s. 9d. at 4s. 5d. in the pound.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish as assessed to the property tax, was, for the tithing of Allerford, £2272 ; and for the tithing of Blackford, £754, making together £3026.

In 1818, the county rate was for the tithing of Aller-

ford, £2 17s. 9d. and for the tithing of Blackford 15s. 8½d. making together £3 13s. 5½d.

In 1801, the resident population was 418.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Selworthy stands thus :—

Number of inhabited houses	83
Uninhabited	6
Families.	100

Of whom were employed

In agriculture	69
In trade and manufactures	14
All others	17

Persons, 483 :—viz.

Males	253
Females	230

Increase of persons in 20 years 65

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons, in 1818, the Rev. J. Stephenson, the rector, states that there are in this parish three small schools, at which between fifty and sixty children are taught at two-pence per week each by females. There is also a school for writing and arithmetic, seldom containing more than ten or twelve children. The poorer classes are desirous of having more sufficient means of education.

In 1815, there were fifty-two poor here.

In Domesday Book, the manor of Selworthy is thus described :—

“Ralph de Limesi holds SELEURDE. Queen Eddida held it in the time of King Edward, and it was assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for five ploughs. There are two ploughs in the demesne and two bondmen; and seven villans and five bordars have three ploughs. There is a mill, which renders twenty-pence; and five acres of meadow, sixty acres of pasture, and forty acres of wood. This manor was worth twenty shillings; it is now worth twenty-five shillings.”²⁸

For the purpose of shewing the difference between the description of places inserted in the Exchequer and Exeter Domesday, I give the following from the latter record.

“Ralph de Limiseio holds SELEURDA, which was held by Queen Eddiva on the day that King Edward was living and dead, and it was assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for five ploughs. Ralph has there in demesne half a hide and two ploughs, and the villans have half a hide and three ploughs. Ralph has there seven villans, five bordars, two bondmen, one horse, two bullocks, four hogs, and sixty sheep. He has a mill, which renders twenty pence, and forty acres of wood, five acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture. It is worth twenty-five shillings, and when he received it, it was worth twenty shillings.”²⁹

²⁸ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 97.

²⁹ Exon D. fo. 438.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, this manor belonged to his Queen Editha.

This lady, whose name is written Edith, Editha, Eddiva, and Eadgitha, was the daughter of Earl Godwin, by his wife Ghitha, sister of Ulf Jarl, the brother-in-law of Canute. She was married to Edward the Confessor in 1044, but the king was not ardent in his connubial attentions. On the disgrace of her father and brothers, in 1051, the king dismissed her from his court, and ordered all her lands and money, and in short, all of which she was possessed, to be taken from her, and he then committed her to the care of his sister, at the monastery of Wherwell, in Hampshire. She was, however, in the following year, on the reconciliation of the king with her father, received into favour, and restored to her former rank. The queen survived the conquest nine years, and died in the year 1075. She was buried by the Conqueror with great pomp, in Westminster Abbey, near the king, her husband.³⁰

Ingulphus says, that she was not only the most beautiful, chaste, humble, and modest lady of her time, but also very learned. He adds, "I have very often seen her, when only a boy, I visited my father in the royal court. Often as I came from school, she questioned me on letters and my verse; and willingly passing from grammar to logic, she caught me in the subtle nets of argument. I had always three or four

³⁰ Saxon Chron. by Ingram, A. D. 1044 to 1074.

pieces of money counted by her maiden, and was sent to the royal larder for refreshment."³¹

But even this "fair rose," as the chroniclers call her, was stained with blood. Soon after her brother Tosti had been appointed Earl of Northumberland, he induced her to cause some Northumbrian nobles to be treacherously slain.³²

In Domesday book, she is spoken of as "Eddeva pulchra," Eddeva the fair; "Eddeva puella," Eddeva the damsel; "Eddeva monial," Eddeva the nun.

After Queen Editha, the manor of Selworthy was given to Ralph de Limesi, one of the conqueror's followers, who, for his military services, was rewarded with numerous lordships, namely, seven in Somersetshire, four in Devonshire, three in Essex, two in Norfolk, eleven in Suffolk, one in Northamptonshire, one in Warwickshire, four in Hertfordshire, and eight in Nottinghamshire. Soon after, he also enjoyed the lands of Christina, one of the sisters of Edgar Atheling. His principal seat was Maxtoke Castle, near Solihull, in the county of Warwick. He was a great benefactor to the Abbey of St. Alban's. His wife's name was Hadewise, who appears to have been first married to Nigel de Bradwell.

He was succeeded by his son and heir, Alan de Limesi, and he by Gerard, who by his wife Amice, daughter of Halerand de Bidun, and one of the sisters

³¹ p. 62.

³² Turner's Hist. of the Anglo-Saxons, vol. ii. p. 540.

and co-heiresses of John de Bidun, a great baron in the reign of Henry II., left issue one son, Hugh, who died without children, leaving his two aunts his co-heiresses, namely, *Basilia*, the wife of Hugh de Odingsells, who died about the thirty-third of Edward I., by whom he had John de Odingsells, living in the reign of Edward II. and III., who had issue another Hugh. The other aunt of Hugh de Limesi, *Eleanor*, married David de Lindesay, by whom she had one son, David.

The manor of Selworthy was afterward possessed by the house of Luccombe, and passed nearly in the same manner as the estate from which they derived their name, having gone through the families of Luccombe, St. John, and Arundel, and in 1790 was the property of Frederick Thomas Wentworth, esq. afterward earl of Strafford. It now belongs to Sir T. D. Acland, bart.

ALLERFORD.

ALLERFORD, from the German *Erle*, *Erlenbaum*, or *Eller*, the alder tree, *Betula Alnus*; and *Ford*, a passage or road through shallow water;³³ the name of a tithing, manor, and village, in the parish of Selworthy, one mile westward from the church.

In Domesday Book this manor is thus described:—

“Ralph [de Limesi] himself holds ALRESFORD. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, when it was

³³ The author of a *Tour in Quest of Genealogy* says, that it is *Algarsford*, from Algar, earl of Mercia.

assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for five ploughs. There are in demesne two ploughs and two bondmen. And six villans and two bordars have one plough. There is a mill, which renders annually fifteen pence; and six acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture, and one acre of wood. It was worth fifty shillings, now it is worth twenty shillings.

“This manor pays a customary rent of twelve sheep per annum to the king’s manor of Carentone. [Carhampton] Ralph de Limesi still keeps up this custom.”²⁴

The manor of Allerford was afterward held of the Mohuns, lords of Dunster. In the fourth of Edward III. John de Raleigh held it of John de Mohun.

In the first of Elizabeth lands were held here by John Arundel of Trerice. From the Arundel family it passed in the same manner as the manor of Luccombe to the Wentworths, and by purchase to Sir T. D. Acland, bart. the present proprietor. The last Lord Arundel, of Trerice, used to reside here sometimes, as does the present Sir Thomas D. Acland occasionally, in the same house.

In 1815, the estimated annual value of the real property in the tithing of Allerford, as assessed to the property tax, was £2772, and the county rate £2 17s. 9d.

BLACKFORD.

The hamlet of Blackford, sometimes called Tivington, is about one mile east from the church.

²⁴ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 97.

In 1815, the estimated annual value of the real property in this tithing, as assessed to the property tax, was £754, and the county rate 15s. 8½d.

The manor is now the property of Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart.

KNOLL.

The hamlet of KNOLL adjoins to Wootton-Courtenay, nearly two miles eastward.

WEST LYNCH.

The hamlet of WEST LYNCH lies near Bossington.

HOLNICOT.

HOLNICOT, from the Anglo-Saxon *Holegn*, *holen*, the holm tree, a species of *Ilex*, the evergreen oak; and *Cot*, a cottage; that is, the cottage among the holm trees; a hamlet and manor in the parish of Selworthy, situate in the road leading from Minehead to Porlock, southward from Selworthy church, and containing about twelve houses. The noble old mansion at this village, belonging to Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart. was accidentally destroyed by fire in the year 1799.—Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart. of Killerton, in the county of Devon, is the present lord of Holnicot.

In Domesday Book this manor is entered as belonging to Roger de Curcelle. Two nuns are also said to hold of the king in free alms, as much land here as was sufficient for two ploughs.

"William holds of Roger de Curcelle, HUNECOTE. Aluric and Brictuin held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for half a hide and half a virgate of land. The arable land is sufficient for two ploughs and a half. There are four villans and one bordar, who have two ploughs. There are sixteen acres of pasture. It is worth twenty-two shillings."³⁵

"Two nuns hold of the king in free alms³⁶ two virgates and a half of land in HONECOTE. The arable land is sufficient for two ploughs. There is one plough and five acres of meadow. It is worth five shillings."³⁷

William de Holne held this manor in the time of Edward I. and in the same reign Walter Barun is certified to hold certain lands and tenements here, consisting of one messuage, ten acres of arable, and two acres of meadow land, of the king *in capite*, by the service of hanging on a certain forked piece of wood the red deer that died of the murrain in the forest of Exmoor, and also of lodging and entertaining at his own expence, such poor decrepit persons as came to him, for the souls of the ancestors of King Edward I.

³⁵ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 94.

³⁶ Tenure in *Frank Almoigne*, free alms, frequently occurs in Domesday Book. This is the tenure by which the ancient monasteries and religious houses held the larger portion of their lands. The high and exalted nature of the service which they rendered, discharged them from all secular burdens, but that of the *trinoda necessitas*, of repairing the bridges, building castles, and repelling invasions. They prayed for the soul of the donor, his [ancestors] and heirs."—ELLIS'S *Introd. to D. B.* p. lxxxj.

³⁷ *Ibid*, fo. 91. b. col. 1.

In the *Testa de Nevill*, (p. 162) it is said :—

Abel de Hunecot holds half a virgate of land in Holnicot of the King, being the same that King William gave to Edith in pure and perpetual alms, because her husband was slain in the King's service.³⁸

Previously to the twenty-sixth of Edward I. the villages of Holnicot and Broford, with their woods, heaths, and appurtenances, then held by William de Holne, had been included by encroachment within the boundary of the forest of Exmoor, but in that year they were disafforested, according to the tenor of the charter of forests, and entirely freed from the oppressive restrictions of the forest laws.

Holnicot was for sometime the seat of the family of Staynings, many of whom are interred in the church of Selworthy, and afterward of the Blackfords, one of whom, as appears by the monument in the church, married a daughter of John Dyke, of Pixton, esq. This place is now the residence of the Hon. Matthew Fortescue, brother of Earl Fortescue, who married the dowager Lady Acland.

³⁸ "Abel de Hunecot tenet dim. Virg. Terre in HUNECOT de dno R. per Oroem quam Willus Rex Angl. dedit Edithe in pura et perpetuam elem. quia Vir suus occisus fuit in servicio dni Regis."—*TESTA DE NEVILL*, p. 162.

STOKE-PERO.³⁹

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH.—RECTORY.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL
NOTICES.—MANOR.

STOKE-PERO, generally written STOCK-PERO, is a small parish, so denominated from the name of its ancient lords. It is about two miles and a half south from Porlock, and is bounded by the parishes of Porlock, Luccombe, Cutcombe, and Exford, lying in one of those deep valleys which wind among the hills between Dunkery, Exmoor, and other high lands. This is a mountainous district, and is intersected by deep ravines, through some of which, whose sides are covered with wood, rushes the *Horner*, in summer a rivulet, but in winter a mountain torrent, which has been described under the parish of Luccombe. The country is ex-

³⁹ STROKE, from the Anglo-Saxon *Stoc*, Belgic and Teutonic *Stock*, the same as the Latin *Stipes*, *Caudex*, *Truncus*, the stock or trunk of a tree; and in its more enlarged sense, the site or place of a wood or forest; similar to the French *Souche*. The latter word, derived from the root above-mentioned, gave name to a baronial family in England, the title of which, long in abeyance, has lately been revived. *Stoke* is also the same with *Stow*, which occurs singly and in composition, in the names of many villages and towns in England.

ceedingly wild, but still it has its peculiar beauties, and the lover of nature and romantic scenery, will here be amply gratified; dark and thick clouds often rest upon the summit of the hills, whilst the plains and the valleys are enjoying the bright rays of the sun. The village is small, and consists of about ten or twelve meanly thatched cottages, which stand near the church. There is also a small hamlet, lying a little to the westward of the village, called *Wilmotsham*, or *Wilmersham*.

A part of Dunkery is within the confines of this parish, and to the west lies the long wild tract of Exmoor, now in a state of progressive improvement under the act for its inclosure, passed in 1815. The occupiers of lands here are chiefly employed in breeding cattle and sheep. There is much woodland and some heathy wilds; the roads are few and bad, and not much used; they are impassable for any carriages, being so steep, narrow, and incumbered with large loose stones, that they are, generally speaking, dangerous even for horses; in short, the inhabitants have very little intercourse with the rest of the world, the parish being as isolated a spot as any in the whole county. The woods and hills abound with whortleberry plants (called provincially *worts*) and with many curious mosses.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and, according to Collinson, is in the patronage of the crown; but in 1675, Richard Nosocombe, esq. pre-

sented to this benefice. The advowson now (1829) belongs to the Rev. — Quicke. It is valued in the king's books at £4 10s. 8½*d.* and is discharged from the payment of tenths, the clear yearly value having been certified to be £20 7s. 2*d.* In the Valor Ecclesiasticus, (1535) there are the following particulars relating to this rectory:—

1535, Hugh Leky, Rector.

Annual value of the demesne or glebe lands	0	2	4
Tithes of wool and lamb	1	3	0
Predial tithes	2	10	0
Oblations and other casualties	1	1	0
	<hr/>		
	£4	16	4

Out of which there is paid:—

To the archdeacon for synodals and procurations.	0	5	7½
	<hr/>		
Clear.	£4	10	8½

The church, which stands on a rising ground on the south-west side of the valley, is a small structure, fifty-four feet long, and sixteen wide; and at the west end there is a tower, thirty feet high, with one bell.

There is neither monument nor inscription.

The tithes are worth £70 per annum, and the living has been augmented, by £2000 of Queen Anne's bounty.

The parish registers begin in the year 1712. Since

the commencement of 1814 to April, 1829, there have been :—

Marriages	10
Baptisms.	38
Burials	15

Some years ago, people from other parishes came here to be married privately, on account of its retired situation.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor was £6 17s.; in 1783, £2 12s. 1d.; and in 1785, £6 18s.

In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £17 18s. 6d. at 1s. 8d. in the pound.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, with part of the hamlet of Alms-worthy, as assessed to the property tax, was £71. [There must be some mistake in this return, as the real property here is worth more (1829) than £600 per annum.] In 1818, the county rate was 1s. 5½d.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons in 1818, the Rev. Mr. Quicke states in his return that a few children here are taught to read by an old woman, who receives parish pay. The poorer classes would be glad of more sufficient means of education.

In 1815, there was one poor person here.

In 1801, the resident population of this parish was 63.—Collinson in 1790, estimated them at 100.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Stoke-Pero stands thus :—

Houses inhabited	13
Uninhabited	1
Building	0
Families	17

Of whom were employed :—

In agriculture	16
In trade	0
All other	1

Persons 81 :—

Males	40
Females	41
Increase in twenty years	18

We find but little in history concerning this parish. It anciently belonged to William de Mohun, among his other estates in this neighbourhood.

In Domesday Book it is thus described :—

“ Roger holds of William [de Mohun] STOCHE. (Exon. D. ESTOCHET.) Eddida held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for two hides. The arable land is sufficient for two ploughs, which are there in the demesne, with eight bordars.

There are eight acres of meadow, and four acres of coppice wood.⁴⁰ It was and is worth thirty shillings."⁴¹

In the Exeter Domesday it is said, that "Roger holds here one hide and a half and three ferdings. The villan tenants hold one virgate and one ferding. Roger has here fourteen sheep."⁴²

In the time of Edward I. this manor was the property of Gilbert Piro, a name which afterward degenerated into Pero and Perrow.

Previously to the twenty-sixth of Edward I. (1297) the manor of Stoke-Pero, with its woods and their appurtenances, had been included by encroachment within the boundaries of the forest of Exmoor, but in that year it was disafforested, according to the tenor of the charter of forests, and entirely freed from the oppressive restrictions of the forest laws.

In the twelfth of Henry IV. (1410) John, son of Henry Foster, held half a knight's fee in Stoke-Pero and Bagley, of Ralph Durborough, as of the manor of Almsworthy.

This manor came afterward into the families of Dodisham and Pym, and subsequently belonged to the Rev. Chancellor Nutcombe.

There are at present (1829) in this parish, three manors; *Stoke*, belonging to Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart.; *Wilmersham*, purchased a few years since by the same gentleman, of Mr. Quicke; and *Radford's Manor*,

⁴⁰ *Silvæ Minutæ.*

⁴¹ *Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 96.*

⁴² *Exon. D. p. 342.*

belonging to Mr. William Tamlyn and Mrs. Stoa. These, with Mr. N. Palmer, are the only owners of freeholds here.

In the description of this manor, inserted in *Domesday Book*, four acres of coppice wood, (*Silvæ Minutæ*) are mentioned. In that venerable record the woodland is divided into *silva minuta*, coppice wood, called *nemusculum* in the Exeter Domesday; and *silva modica*, perhaps brushwood, coppice half grown, or underwood.⁴³

Silva infructuosa; *silva inutilis*, *silva ad ignem tantum*; *silva nil reddens*; and *silva sine pascagio*, are terms of frequent occurrence in the Survey, indicating that the woods so described afforded nothing that could, comparatively speaking, become an object of attention, [as to value.]⁴⁴

All these terms were used in opposition to mast-bearing trees, the oak and beech; so that whenever they occur it may be understood that the woods were not composed of either of those trees.

⁴³ Introduct. to Domesd. B. in HUTCHINS's Dorset, p. 6.

⁴⁴ ELLIS's Introd. to D. B. p. xxxj.

CUTCOMBE.⁴⁵

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH.—VICARAGE.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—CHARITIES.—MANOR.—DOMESDAY SURVEY.—GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE FAMILIES OF PYM AND HALES.—HAMLET OF OAKTROW.—ILLUSTRATIONS OF DOMESDAY BOOK.

CUTCOMBE is an extensive parish, bounded on the north by Stoke-Pero, Luccombe, Wootton-Courtenay, and Timberscombe ; on the east by Carhampton and Luxborough ; on the south by Exton and Winsford ; and on the west by Exford and a detached part of Timberscombe. This is the largest parish in the Hundred ; it extends from east to west seven miles, and from an actual survey made in 1824, contains about seven thousand and seven acres of land, of which about one thousand one hundred acres are in commons, roads, and wastes ; three hundred and fifty acres in wood, and the rest in inclosed, meadow, and pasture. The commons, consisting of six hundred and fifty-five acres, form part of Dunkery, and the beacon and bar-

⁴⁵ Cutcombe, from the British *coed*, a wood, and *cwm*, a valley, that is the wooded valley, from its vicinity to Exmoor forest. The name of this parish is written in Domesday Book, *Udecombe*, Woodcombe.

rows on this mountain, mentioned in our general description of the Hundred of Carhampton,⁴⁶ stand in this parish.

The parish of Cutcombe is intersected by deep valleys, the greater part of which are woodland and cultivated meadows ; through one of these valleys the new turnpike-road runs from Timberscombe to Bampton. The village of Cutcombe is about eight miles south from Minehead, by the turnpike-road, but there is a nearer way over Grabhurst. Here are four hamlets, namely, Luckwell-Bridge, Codsend, Wheddon-Cross, and Watercombe. The first is about two miles south-west of the church, and a fair is held there about Michaelmas for sheep and cattle ; the turnpike-road, before-mentioned, passes through Wheddon-Cross, and a toll-gate has been lately erected there. In Codsend moor a small stream rises, called *Quarm Water*, or *Wester River*, which runs under Luckwell bridge, and after turning, with a tributary stream, two mills, and passing under two small bridges, leaves the parish and falls into the river Exe, near the village of Exton. A second rivulet rises in *Hart Cleeve*, about a mile and a half south-east of the church, and after driving a mill, and running under an embankment, over which the new road, before-mentioned, joins, near Short House, the residence of the Misses Kent; another rivulet which rises on Dunkery, and after leaving this

parish, receives into its channel several other streams, and passing by the village of Timberscombe and the town of Dunster, and dividing the latter parish from that of Carhampton for more than two miles, to its very mouth, falls into the sea, and is there called the *Hone*. All these rivulets abound with trout and eels; salmon also come up the Hone, and some fine mullet are caught a little way up from the sea.

Cutcombe is called a hill-country parish; the soil is generally a white rag, or as it is here called, a *shelley* soil, lying over a kind of bastard slate, not fit for roofing. The herbage which grows on it seldom burns, even in the hottest summer. The farms here are mostly occupied in the business of the dairy, and in breeding cattle; the proportion of ground in tillage is very small, especially in the western part of the parish, where it is the custom after breaking up a piece of ground, and taking a course of crops from it, sowing with the last crop a fair proportion of grass seeds,⁴⁶ to let it lie down in grass for six or seven years, or more, until it becomes mossy, or is growing to furze, when it is again broken up, and the same course renewed. Very little barley is grown in this part of the parish, but on the eastern side, where the land is better, though still high, the farmers grow fair crops of wheat and barley of middling quality.

⁴⁶ When ground is preparing to be laid down to grass for a long time, a large proportion of the seed sown should be Dutch white clover, which possesses the quality of lying longer in the ground than any other sort.

There are three lime rocks worked in this parish ; one on Stowey farm ; another on Kersham farm ; and the third in a field on the south side of the valley, in front of the church. Most of the farms have a portion of woodland belonging to, but detached from them. This division of the woodlands, or something similar to it, may probably have originated with the swineherds, the *Porcarii* of Domesday Book, of whom the reader will find an account in the sequel. The woodlands are mostly coppice, and in the proper season abound with woodcocks.

There is no manor-house here, but Miss Hales, the lady of the manor, has lately built a handsome lodge called *Raleigh cottage*, on a piece of rising ground, above a wood in the principal valley, which commands most delightful views of the surrounding country. Here her steward, Mr. Howe, of Tiverton, holds her manorial courts.

The principal landed proprietors besides Miss Hales, are, the earl of Carnarvon, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart., — Beach, esq., who has lately purchased a considerable property of Sir Thomas Buckler Lethbridge, bart., Mr. Edbrooke, Messrs. White, Mr. Evans, — Vye, esq., Mr. Escott, the Misses Kent, Francis Pearse, esq., Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Burnell, and Mr. Burnell, of Putham.

The great tithes are in lay hands, and are divided among a great many small proprietors.

The church of Cutcombe was anciently appropriated to the monastery of Brewton, and with Luxborough annexed, was valued in 1292 at ten marks. The prior of Dunster received at that time out of the rectory an annual pension of forty shillings and four-pence; but this pension is not mentioned in 1535, in the account of the property of that priory. Among the possessions of the abbey of Brewton, inserted in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, (1535) the receipts of the parsonages of Minehead and Cutcombe are accounted for together, as follows :—

Rents of the rectory there per annum	18	0	0
Pension received of the prebendary of St. Decuman's	0	8	0
Annual rent received of the abbot and convent of Cleeve	0	5	0

In the whole.....£18 13 0

The living of Cutcombe with Luxborough annexed, is a vicarage in the deanery of Dunster, and ever since the dissolution of the monastery of Brewton, the patronage has remained in the crown. It is valued in the king's books at £14 0s. 7d.; and Bacon, in his edition of the *Liber Regis*, gives the estimated annual value at £150. It is now (1829) worth rather more than £200 per annum. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* there are the following particulars relating to this benefice :—

1535. Robert Darche, Vicar.

Annual rents of the demesne or glebe

lands	1	0	0
Predial tithes	4	0	0
Oblations and other casualties	10	0	0

£15 0 0

Out of which there is paid

To the bishop for procurations 0 14 11

To the archdeacon of Taunton

for Synodals. 0 4 6— 19 5

Clear. £14 0 7

Tenths 1 8 5½

The church, according to Collinson, is dedicated to St. Lawrence, but Ecton, Bacon, and Carlisle say to St. John, which appears to be correct, as the present incumbent was inducted to the vicarage of the church of "St. John," in the parish of Cutcombe, with Luxborough annexed. It is an ancient structure consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, tiled, with a tower at the west end, containing five bells.

There is a monument in the chancel to the memory of several members of the Edbrooke family, of Stowey Farm in this parish; and in the aisle there is another with this inscription:—"Sacred to the memory of Agnes Nibbs, who departed this life June the 26th, 1821, aged 56 years."

The register begins in 1624, but is very imperfect

for nearly a century. It appears to have been unbound and to have been put together again without order, and many of the leaves partly cut out. That part which includes the years of the Cromwell usurpation seems to have been the best kept. A considerable part of the earliest register is in latin.⁴⁷

VICARS OF CUTCOMBE.

William Hallet, died 1641.

1641. J. Floyd, died 1643.

1643. Matthew Younge.

1663. Thomas Bowering.

1672. M. De Assigny, died 1699.

1699. John Ford, died 1714.

* * * *

1754. Samuel Squire.

1763. James Wilkins.

1791. George Nibbs, living 1829.

There is a wake held here on St. Lawrence's day, which has probably given rise to the notion that the church was dedicated to that saint.

In 1776, the money expended in the parish of Cutcombe on account of the poor was £101 11s. 4d., and in 1785, £123 17s. 11d. In 1803, the money raised

⁴⁷ One entry records the burial of a man unknown, who was found dead in Hart-Cleeve; and another that of a child who was scalded to death in a tub of hot wort, to which the person who made the entry, has added a remark, "that it was no doubt a judgment on the parents for brewing on a Sunday."

by the parish rates was £304 13s. 6½d. at 3s. 10d. in the pound. In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish as assessed to the property tax was £3420. In 1818, the county rate was £3 11s. 5½d.

In the parochial returns made to the House of Commons on the education of the poor, in 1818, the Rev. G. Nibbs in his return states, that in Cutcombe there is a charity school founded about the year 1720, by the late Richard Ellsworth, esq. of Biccombe, in which fifty-four children are taught free; the teacher's salary is £31 per annum, arising partly from lands and partly from money in the funds. There is no other school, and the minister states that the endowed school affords sufficient means of education for the poor.

In 1815, there were seventy-eight poor in this parish.

In 1801, the resident population of this parish was 594.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for the parish of Cutcombe stands thus:—

Number of inhabited houses	112
Uninhabited ditto	5
Families	122
Of whom were chiefly employed	
In agriculture	60
In trade	23
All others	39

Number of persons, 664 :—viz.

Males	308
Females	356
Increase in 20 years	70

In the Fifteenth Report of the Commissioners for Inquiring into Charities, there are the following particulars relating to the parish of Cutcombe.

Richard Ellsworth by his will, dated the 11th of July, 1714,⁴⁸ bequeathed the annual sum of £10 for ever, towards teaching the poor children of the parish of Cutcombe to read, write, and say their catechism. And he appointed as trustees, for the execution of his charitable bequests, the archdeacon of Taunton and the ministers of Timberscombe, Cutcombe, Wootton-Courtenay, and Minehead respectively, for the time being.

An information was filed in the court of chancery, about the year 1801, for the purpose of carrying into execution the several charities of the said testator, the proceedings in which are fully set forth under the parish of Timberscombe, from which it appears that the trustees of the said charities, in or about the year 1804, added the sum of £25 per annum to the sum of £10 per annum, the original bequest; and appointed a schoolmaster with a salary of £35 per annum, subject to certain deductions therein mentioned, which said

⁴⁸ See the will set out under the same charity in the parish of Timberscombe.

school has ever since continued, and is now under the management of the trustees of the said testator's charities.

Between fifty and sixty boys and girls of the parish of Cutcombe, are now educated in this school, and have for some time been taught by Elizabeth Langdon, the daughter of the late William Langdon, who was master of the same school for many years. During the life of William Langdon, the school was carried on in his house, without his receiving any rent from the trustees; in consideration of which, and of the said Elizabeth Langdon's own qualifications, she was after his death, continued in the situation of school-mistress.

The trustees have very lately built a school-room, out of the balance in their hands, arising from the whole school trust, under the will.

A salary of £31, subject to some small deductions, is paid to the schoolmistress, who is permitted by the trustees, when the school is not full, to take some scholars from the neighbouring parishes, and to receive payment for them. The children are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The original purpose of the testator, with respect to religious instruction, appears to be attended to, and on the Sunday more particularly, they are taught their catechism.

The charity of Mr. George Joyce is fully detailed under the charities in the parish of Wootton-Courtenay.

The trustees appointed for the parish of Cutcombe, are Mr. James White, of Little Watercombe; Mr. Robert Edbrooke and Mr. Nathaniel Edbrooke, of Stowey Farm; and Thomas Evans, of Littlecombe, [Little Quarne] who distribute among the second poor of the parish of Cutcombe, the proportion of the testator's charity.

SMALL GIFTS OF SUNDRY PERSONS.

James Dunscombe gave	3	0	0
Robert Widlake.....	5	0	0
Richard Pearse	10	0	0
John Hawkwell.....	2	0	0
Gregory Widlake	1	0	0
John Widlake	1	0	0
Henry Dunscombe	3	0	0
Alice Nurcombe	2	0	0
Joan White	5	0	0
Robert White	5	0	0
John Greenslade	20	0	0
Thomas White	10	0	0
John Burnell.	5	0	0
Thomas Greenslade	5	0	0
Agnes Escott	20	0	0
Nathaniel Edbrooke	30	0	0

£127 0 0

All the above gifts appear by the overseers' books for many years, to have been received by them and ap-

plied to the general purposes of the parish, but no particular account of them can now be traced. These gifts amount together to the sum of £127, and the parish officers pay the interest thereof out of the poor rates, to the second poor of the said parish.

In Domesday Book the manor of Cutcombe is thus described :—

“William [de Mohun] himself holds UDECOMBE. Ælmar held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for three hides. The arable land is sufficient for fifteen ploughs. There are in demesne four ploughs and six bondmen; eighteen villans and five bordars have five ploughs. There are six swineherds (*porcarii*) who render annually thirty-one hogs; a mill that renders five shillings; six acres of meadow; a pasture two miles long and one mile broad; and a wood one mile long and half a mile broad. It was formerly worth three pounds, now six pounds.”⁴⁹

In the Exon Domesday it is said that William de

⁴⁹ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo 95, b.

[*It was formerly worth three pounds, now six pounds.*]—The phrase for this in the original is sometimes *valuit et valet*—In other entries, *valebant et valet*—in others, *quando recepit valebant, 3 lib. modo 6 lib.*

Hutchins (Hist. of Dorset, introd. p. 6) has the following remark on this phrase :—the different value of the lands in the Confessor's and Conqueror's time is expressed by the terms *valuit et valet*, also by T. R. E. *tempore Regis Edwardi*, and T. R. W. *tempore Regis Willelmi*; and in one instance, *tempore Heraldii*, who is not allowed the title of king. There is also sometimes expressed a difference in the value of land when the tenant received or had it first granted (*quando recepit*) and at the time of the survey.

Mohun has here in his demesne three virgates, and the villans one hide and half a virgate. He has thirty-six wild horses; two other horses; five bullocks; three hogs; two hundred and fifty sheep; and forty-seven goats.⁵⁰

"Of the lands of this manor three soldiers (*milites*) of William's hold one hide and half a virgate of land, and have there two ploughs; and four villans and six bordars have one plough. There are two acres of meadow and fourteen acres of wood. There is a pasture half a mile long and five furlongs broad. It was and is worth thirty-five shillings and sixpence."⁵¹

In the Exon Domesday it is said, that "these lands were held by three Thanes, who could not be separated from the lord of this manor. The soldiers have three virgates in demesne, and the villan [tenants] have one virgate and a half. The soldiers have three brood mares and fifty sheep."⁵²

From the description of Cutcombe, in Domesday Book, it will be seen that it was divided into two manors. The whole had been given by the Conqueror to William de Mohun, and the portion which he held in demesne was afterward known as the manor of *Cutcombe-Mohun*, in the descendants of which family it continued till the latter end of the reign of Edward III. when John, Lord Mohun dying without issue male, such estates as remained unalienated by his widow,

⁵⁰ Exon. D. fo. 336.

⁵¹ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 95, b.

⁵² Exon Domesday fo. 336.

were divided amongst his three daughters and co-heiresses, of whom Philippa, the second, the wife of Edward, duke of York, elder son of Edmund de Langley, fifth son of King Edward III. had a moiety of this manor, and died seized thereof in the tenth of Henry VI. leaving Richard, Lord Strange, of Knokyn, the son of Matilda her younger sister, wife of John, Lord Strange, of Knokyn, her nephew and next heir; which Richard thus became possessed of the manor of Cutcombe-Mohun. The other moiety of this manor was held by Elizabeth, the wife of William Montacute, earl of Salisbury, who died in the second of Henry V.⁵³

The family of *Strange of Knokyn*, in the county of Salop, was descended from Guy le Strange [*Extraneus*] a younger son of the duke of Brittany, who settled in Shropshire in the reign of King Henry II. From this principal branch came the Lords Strange, of Blackmere, who were extinct in the forty-ninth of Edward III.; Eubulo le Strange; and the Stranges of Hunstanton, in the county of Norfolk. The above-mentioned Richard, Lord Strange, was the son of John le Strange, of Knokyn, by Matilda, third and youngest daughter and co-heiress of John, the last Lord Mohun of Dunster; he died in the twenty-seventh of Henry

⁵³ By an inquisition taken in the second of Henry V. Elizabeth, the wife of William Montacute, earl of Salisbury, was found to hold the manor of Cutcombe.—Cal. Inq. p. m. 2. Hen. V. No. 39.—And by another inquisition taken in the tenth of Henry VI. Philippa, duchess of York, then the wife of Walter Fitz-Walter, was found to hold a moiety of the said manor.—Ibid. 10 Hen. VI. No. 45.

VI., having been twice married, 1. to Constance, daughter of, and 2. to Elizabeth, daughter of Reginald, Lord Cobham. By his first wife he had issue, John le Strange, who married Jaquetta, daughter of Richard Woodville, Earl Rivers, and sister of Elizabeth Woodville, queen of Edward IV. by whom he had an only daughter and heiress, Joan, who became the wife of George Stanley, son and heir of Thomas, earl of Derby.

In the twenty-fourth of Henry VI. the above-mentioned Richard, Lord Strange, of Knokyn, released all his right in the manor of Cutcombe-Mohun to Alexander Hody⁵⁴ and others. The family of *Hody* were seated at Stawel in this county, and at Pillesdon, in the county of Dorset. Sir John Hody, of Stawel, knt., was lord chief justice of the court of king's bench in the eighteenth of Henry VI. (1440) and his son, Sir William Hody, knt., who resided at Pillesdon, was made serjeant at law in 1486, and chief baron of the exchequer in the following year. But the great ornament of this family is Humphrey Hody, D. D., who was born at Odcombe in this county, of which parish his father was rector. He was an eminent divine, and greatly distinguished himself by his learning; in 1698

⁵⁴ I take this Alexander Hody to be the same who in the first of Edward IV. is called Sir Alexander Hody, knt., and who held an annual rent of £12, issuing out of the manor of Kington Plukenet, in the county of Dorset.—See HUTCHINS's *Hist. of Dorset*, vol. ii. p. 307.

he was appointed regius professor of Greek in the University of Oxford, at which city he died on the 20th of January, 1706, and his remains were interred in the chapel of Wadham college.

But the portion of the manor of Cutcombe, which is described in Domesday Book, as being then held of William de Mohun by three soldiers, (*milites*) was afterward known as the manor of *Cutcombe-Ralegh*, so called from its possessors, the family of Ralegh, of Nettlecombe, to distinguish it from the manor of Cutcombe-Mohun.

The occurrence of three *soldiers*, [*milites*] holding lands in the manor of Cutcombe, soon after the Norman conquest, gives me an opportunity of entering upon some explanation relating to this class of landholders at the time of the survey.

The terms *miles*, *milites*, seem not to have acquired a precise meaning at the time of the survey; sometimes implying a soldier, or mere military servant, and sometimes a person of higher distinction. The "*Miles Regis dominicus*" occurs once in the account of Berkshire; and in another entry under Dorsetshire, "*Bricsi miles Regis Edwardi*" occurs. In folio 4 of the survey after "*Terra Archiepiscopi Cantuariensis*" we have "*Terra Militum ejus*," under which title we find Hamo the sheriff, and even the earl of Ow holding lands.

The barons and greater persons who held under the archbishop of Canterbury, were probably his *milites* in consideration of taking the command of his soldiers jointly with their own, when brought into actual service. Many of the *milites* who held under the bishops, appear to have had larger allotments of land than under other tenants in capite. The instances in the survey are very numerous where the *milites* held a single hide.

The word *milites*, as used by Matthew Paris, in his account of the survey, must undoubtedly be understood of soldiers. In the account of Colchester, in Essex,⁵⁵ the word *soldarii* is used as a substitute for *milites*.⁵⁶

In Somersetshire eight instances occur in which *milites* are mentioned. Three of these are in the bishop of Wells's Manors of Kingsbury, Wiveliscombe, and Lydeard. In Kingsbury it is said, "De ead. Terra hujus M. ten. tres *milites* et unus clericus 8 hid. Valet ad opus Episcopi 12 lib. Ad opus *militum* 8 lib."

In Wiveliscombe it is said, "De hac Terra hujus M. ten. 3 *milites* de Episcopo 9 hid. et ibi habent 16 car. Hæc terra est de dominio Episcopatus nec potest ab Episcopo separari. Valet Episcopo 10 lib. *Militibus* 15 lib."

In Lydeard, "De hac Terra hujus M. ten. 2 *milit.* 3 hid. de Terra Villanorum et ibi habent 3 car."—That is, as I understand it, "three *milites*, or soldiers, hold of the bishop three hides of land in villanage, and have there three ploughs."

A fourth instance is in the fee of the bishop of Coutances :—"WÆROCOSALE. De ead. Terra hujus M. ten. unus *miles* 4 hid. et dim. de Episcopo et ibi habet 2 car. cum 3 vill. et 4 bord. Valuit et valet 50 sol."

The fifth instance is in the manor of Crewkerne, belonging to the cathedral church of Caen, in Normandy :—"Ecclesia S. Stefani ten. de Rege Ecclesiam CRUCHE. De his 10 hid. ten. unus *miles* de Abbate 3 hid. et ibi habet 2 car. cum servo et 6 villani, et 2 bord. cum 4 car. Valet abbati 7 lib. Militi 4 lib."

The sixth occurs in the Fee of the earl of Moreton, at his manor of Bishopston, where his castle of Montacute stood :—"Ipse Comes ten. in dominio BISCOPESTONE et ibi est Castellum ejus quod vocatur MONTAGUD. De his 9 hid. ten de Comite Aluredus 1 hid. et dim. Drogo 1 hidam. Bretel 1 hid. Donecan 1 hid. Ibi sunt 5 car. cum 1 servo et 19 bord. Valet Comiti hoc M. 6 lib. *Militibus* 3 lib. et 3 solid."

⁵⁵ D. B. vol. II. fol. 107.

⁵⁶ Ellis's Introd. to Domesday B. p. 18.

The seventh is in the Fee of William de Mohun, of Dunster :—
 “ UDECOMBE [now Cutcombe.] De hac Terra hujus M. ten. 3 milites de W. unam hid. et dimid. virg. Terræ et ibi habent 2 car. et 4 villani et 6 bord. cum 1 car. Ibi 2 ac. prati et 14 ac. silvæ. Pastura dimid. leu. long. et 5 quarent. lat.; Valeb. et val. 35 solid. et 6 denar.”

The last instance is in the Fee of Serlo de Burgh :—“ Quatuor milites ten. de Serlo OPOPILLE. [Uphill] Euuacre teneb. T. R. E. et geldabat pro 6 hid. et dim. Terra est 10 car. In dominio sunt 4 car. cum 1 servo et 7 villani et 4 bord. cum 3 car. Ibi 70 ac. prati et 100 ac. pasturæ. Valuit et valet 6 lib.”

PANNAGE.

In Domesday Book there is an entry which states that in the manor of Cutcombe there were six swineherds (*porcarii*) who rendered annually to the lord thirty-one hogs, as a rent in kind. This entry will best be illustrated by the following observations.

Although in one or two instances in the Domesday Survey, mere *swineherds* seem to have been intended by the word *porcarii*, yet in the generality of entries in which they are mentioned, they appear in the rank of free occupiers, who rented the privilege of feeding hogs in the woods; some for money, and some for payment in kind.

In Somersetshire there are seven entries of *porcarii*; three of these are in the king's manors of North-Petherton, Brompton-Regis, and North-Curry. In that of North-Petherton there were twenty *porcarii*, who, according to the Exeter Domesday, paid the king a money rent of one hundred shillings. In Brompton-Regis there was one *porcarius*, and in North-Curry four.

In Taunton there were seventeen, who paid the bishop of Winchester a money rent of £7 10s.

In the other three entries the *porcarii* paid their rent in kind. In the manor of Cutcombe, of which I am now treating, six *porcarii* paid William de Mohun, of Dunster, 31 hogs annually; in the manor

of White-Lackington, seven *porcarii* paid Roger Arundel forty hogs annually; and at Cadbury one *porcarius* paid Turstin Fitz Rolf twelve hogs annually.

In the northern counties it appears in many instances from the survey, that the pannage, *de pannagio*, or produce of the woods, was holden in common, in a similar manner with the herbage and grass of the pastures and meadows. Where this was the case, the right of *pannage*, or keeping so many hogs in certain woods, was a privilege of great importance, and was a right carefully protected in later days. In the southern and western counties it seems to have been the practice with the great lords, as I have already shewn from the survey, to let at a money rent, or a rent in kind, the produce of their woods, especially those which consisted of the beech and the oak, to the *porcarii* or swineherds, those whose principal occupation was in feeding swine.

Swine fattened in the woods furnished so considerable a part of the food of former ages, that a scarcity of *mast* was one of the causes of the frequent famines that then happened. The Saxon Chronicle, after describing the extraordinary famine and mortality of the year 1116, records particularly the failure of *mast* in that year.⁴⁷

It may be inferred from Domesday Book, that oak trees were then of no further consequence than for the food they afforded to swine; for the value of the woods in several counties is ascertained by the number of hogs they would fatten; some were of such extent as to support two thousand. The survey was taken so accurately that in some places it is mentioned there is a wood sufficient for *one* hog—"Silva de una porco."

When the woods of a manor are said to have furnished the lord with so many hogs, by way of rent, it is to be understood of swine fatted with the *mast* and acorns, and implies, in proportion to their number, that those woods abounded with beech and oak. In some manors the villan tenants also furnished the lord with a like pro-

⁴⁷ Saxon Chronicle, by INGRAM, p. 337.

portion of their swine *de herbagio*, that is, *lean swine*, such as were kept on the herbage of the woods and waste.⁵⁵

Since the conquest we find Philip Fitz-Robert giving, amongst other things, one hundred bacons to the king for the wardship of the heir of Ivo de Munby.⁵⁶

Our Norman kings, in their rage for extending forests, took away the right of pannage from those on whose lands they had encroached; this was one of the grievances that John was compelled to redress in the charter of forests.

By the ninth clause of the charter of forests "Every freeman may agist his own wood within the king's forest at his pleasure, and shall take his pannage. Also we do grant, that every freeman may drive his swine freely without impediment, through the king's demesne woods, for to agist them in their own woods, or else where they will. And if the swine of any freeman lie one night within the king's forest, there shall be no occasion taken thereof, whereby he may lose any thing of his own."

By the statute entitled "The Customs and Assize of the Forest," it is ordained, that "If any man shall have a wood against the demesne wood of our lord the king, it is lawful for him after that the demesne hedges are agisted to have in the time of pannage so many swine as the wood may suffer, by the view of the forester, verdurer, regardor, agistor, and other lawful men; and this shall be done of the profit of the swine. Know that in the time of pannage, when the agistment ought to be made, the foresters, verdurers, and agistors, ought to crave the assent of the justices of our lord the king's forests, and seek their good-will, and the agistment shall be made as well within the demesne hedges and woods as without, and the agistment shall be made according to their commandment, and tenor of their letters, which letters he shall have before the justices of the forests in the next circuit. And it is commanded that hereafter be taken for every hog as much as may be, to the use of our lord the king for

⁵⁵ See MANNING'S Hist. of Surrey, vol. i. p. 114, note.

⁵⁶ Mag. Rot. 1 Joh. Rot. 11. a.—Madox's Excheq. chap. 10.

pannage, that is to say, one penny or two-pence; but of little pigs there shall be no more paid than was before."

In the twenty-sixth of Edward I. the manor of Cutcombe belonged to John de Mohun and Simon de Ralegh, previously to which time this village, with its woods, heaths, and appurtenances had been included by encroachment within the boundaries of the forest of Exmoor; but in the above-mentioned year it was disafforested, according to the tenor of the charter of forests, and entirely freed from the oppressive restrictions of the forest laws.

This manor descended to the Raleghs from the family of *Tort*, who were seated at Oulknolle, in the parish of Carhampton. It afterward came to the family of Doddesham; and thence by the marriage of Eleanor, daughter and heiress of William Doddesham, to Richard Gilbert, of Wollavington, esq., whose daughter and heiress, Joan, brought it by marriage to Roger Pym, of Brymore, esq., from whose descendants it passed in like manner by the marriage of an heiress to Sir Thomas Hales, bart.; and now both the manors of Cutcombe-Mohun and Cutcombe-Ralegh, are in the possession of Miss Hales, only daughter and heiress of the late Sir Philip Hales, bart.

By an inquisition taken in the twentieth of Edward IV. (1480) William Doddesham was found to be possessed of the manor of Cutcombe-Mohun.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ Cal. Inq. p. m. 20 Edw. IV. No. 78.

OAKTROW.

Between Cutcombe and Timberscombe there is a farm-house and farm called OAKTROW, which, having been parcel of the manor of Cutcombe-Mohun, may here be noticed. Its ancient name, as we find it in Domesday Book, was *Wochetrev*, from the British *ogo*, a cavern, the same as the Greek *ocha*, and the Latin *cavus*; and *tref*, a town, that is the town or place of caverns.⁶¹

In the above-mentioned record this manor is thus surveyed:—

“Durand holds of William [de Mohun] WOCHETREV. Manno (Mannius, *Exon. D.*) held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for half a virgate of land. The arable land is sufficient for one plough. There are two villans who have half a plough, and four acres of wood. It was worth four shillings, now it is worth six shillings.”⁶²

In the Exeter Domesday it is said, that Durand held one ferling and half a plough in demesne, and the villans one ferling and half a plough. Durand had

⁶¹ The cavern of Wokey-hole (more properly *Okey*) in this county, has its name from the same source; but the people not understanding the meaning of Okey, have added the word *hole*, which is exactly the same in modern English that *ogo* is in the British language.

Strabo and Cellarius both mention that the island of Eubœa, in Greece, was anciently called *Ocha*, from its having a similar cavern.—See CAMDEN's *Britan.* by Gough, vol. i. p.

⁶² Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 96.

there six bullocks, fifty sheep, twenty goats, and eight hogs.⁶³

Oaktrow now belongs to Sir T. D. Acland, bart.

This hamlet was divided into East and West Oak-trow; and in 1535, the monastery of Old Cleeve had here and in Smallcombe and Northcombe certain annual rents, amounting to £2 12s. 5½d. out of which there was paid to Dunster Castle 1s. 3½d. yearly; to the manor of Wells 6s.; to the manor of Timberscombe 1s. 8d.; and 2s. for the fee of Henry Dovell, bailiff of the same.⁶⁴

GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF PYM, OF
BRYMORE, LORDS OF THE MANOR OF CUTCOMBE.

Arms—*Argent*, an Annulet, *Sable*.

In the latter end of the reign of Henry III. or that of Edward I. the estate of Brymore, near Bridgwater, was conveyed to Elias Pym, by William Fitchet, who obtained it of Odo, the son of Durand de Derleigh.

This Elias Pym was the father of several children, William, John, and Roger his eldest son and heir, who possessed the estate of Brymore, in the twenty-seventh of Edward I.

The eldest son and successor of this Roger was of his own name, and bore on his seal a saltire between four quatrefoils. He died twenty-third Edward III.

⁶³ Exon. D. fo. 338.

⁶⁴ Valor Ecclesiast. vol. i. p. 217.

and was succeeded by Elias his brother ; after whose death without children, the inheritance devolved to Philip, the third son, who in the fiftieth of the same king, being then parson of Kentisbury, in the county of Devon, conveyed all his right to Philip Pym, son of Henry his brother, and to the heirs of the said Philip.

Philip Pym was dead before the first of Henry IV. He had two sons by his first wife, Emmota, daughter and co-heiress of Alexander de Camelis, whose names were Roger and William ; by his second wife he had also a son, called Elias, to whom he gave several estates in Dulverton and Brompton-Regis.

Roger Pym, the eldest son, married Joan, daughter and co-heiress of John Trivet, of Sidbury, in the county of Devon, a younger branch of the family of Trivet, of Durborough. This Roger was possessed of Brymore, from the first of Henry IV. to the thirteenth of Henry VI., in which last year he was succeeded by Philip, his eldest son. The coat of this Philip was a bull's head within a wreath. He was living in the sixteenth of Edward IV. and had two sons, Roger his successor, and Philip.

Roger Pym married Joan, daughter and heiress of John Gilbert, of Wollavington, by Eleanor, daughter and co-heiress of William Doddesham. By this marriage the family of Pym came into possession of the manor of Cutcombe-Mohun, which belonged to the Doddeshams. He was living in the last year of Edward IV., at which time he made over all his estate

lying at Brymore, Wollavington, and other places, to his son Alexander.

Which Alexander married Thomasia, daughter of William Stainings, esq., and died in the eighth of Henry VII. He was succeeded by Reginald Pym, his eldest son, who, by Mary, daughter of Thomas Dabridgecourt, was father of Erasmus Pym,⁶⁶ and grandfather of John Pym, esq., well known in English history for his republican principles and for his violent opposition to the measures of King Charles I.

Which John Pym was born in the year 1584, and in his fifteenth year was entered as a gentleman commoner of Broadgates Hall, now Pembroke College, Oxford, where he had for his tutor Degory Wheare, but appears to have left the university without taking a degree; and, as Wood supposes, went to one of the inns of court. He appears indeed to have been intended for public business, as he was very early placed as a clerk in the office of the exchequer. He was likewise not far advanced when he was elected member of parliament for Tavistock, in the reign of James I.

Mr. Pym uniformly distinguished himself by his violent opposition to the measures of the court, both in the reign of that king and his successor. In 1626

⁶⁶ Mary, daughter of this Erasmus Pym, was married to Edward Arthur, of Clapton, near Bristol, esq., by whom she had several children; but Mary, their daughter, and at length heiress, became possessed of the estates of the family, and transferred them in marriage to William Winter, youngest son of George Winter, esq., of Dyrham, in the county of Gloucester.

he was one of the managers of the articles of impeachment against the duke of Buckingham ; and in 1628 brought into the House of Commons a charge against Dr. Roger Mainwaring, who held some doctrines which he conceived to be equally injurious to the king and the kingdom. He was likewise a great opponent of Arminianism, being himself attached to Calvinistic principles. In 1639, he, with several other commoners and lords, held a very close correspondence with the commissioners sent to London by the Scottish covenanters ; and in the parliament, which met April 13, 1640, was one of the most active and leading members.

On the meeting of the next, which is called the long parliament, Mr. Pym made an elaborate speech concerning the grievances of the nation, and impeached the earl of Strafford of high treason, at whose trial he was one of the managers of the House of Commons. His uncommon violence led the king to the unhappy measure of coming to the parliament in person, to seize him and four other members. Pym, however, continued firm to the interests of the parliament, but thought it necessary, sometime before his death, to draw up a vindication of his conduct, which leaves it doubtful what part he would have taken, had he lived to see the fatal consequences of his early violence. In November, 1643, he was appointed lieutenant of the ordnance, and probably would have risen to greater distinction, but he died at Derby House, on the 8th of December following, and was interred with great so-

lemnity in Westminster Abbey. Many of his speeches were printed separately, and are inserted in the annals and histories of the times.

His character has been drawn by Lord Clarendon, in his History, which I shall here content myself with only referring to, in order that I may give from Dr. Bliss's edition of Wood's *Athenæ*, a curious document on the subject of Pym's death. Lord Clarendon and some writers who have relied upon his authority, have asserted that Pym died in great torments of that loathsome disease the *morbus pediculosus*; that he was a very grievous spectacle; and that none but select friends were admitted to see him. Now there was no foundation whatever for the then common report of this man's malady, which, even had it been the case, would have inflicted no stigma on his memory, for it was a visitation to which, under Divine Providence, the best as well as the vilest of mankind are subject. But as truth is, or ought to be, the great object of all historical research, Dr. Bliss observes, that he offers the following conclusive evidence on the subject, being a copy of the printed attestation⁶⁶ of the medical men who examined Pym's body after death;—

“ A Narrative of the Disease and Death of that noble gentleman, John Pym, esquire, late a member of the Honourable House of Commons. Attested under the Hands of his Physitians, Chyrurgions, and Apothecary.

⁶⁶ Preserved in the Bodleian Library, quarto, E. 3. Jur.

“Forasmuch as there are divers uncertaine reports and false suggestions spread abroad, touching the disease and death of that noble gentleman John Pym, esquire, late a member of the Honourable House of Commons, it is thought fit (for the undeceiving of some, and prevention of misconstructions and suspicions in others) to manifest to those who desire information, the true cause of his lingring disease and death, as it was discovered (while he lived) by his physitians, and manifested to the view both of them and many others that were present at the dissection of his bodie after his death. For the skinne of his bodie, it was without so much as any roughness, scarr, or scab; neither was there any breach either of the scarfe or true skin, much lesse any *phthiriasis*, or lousie disease, as was reported. And as for that suggestion of his being poysoned, there appeared to the physitians no signe thereof upon the view of his body; neither was there any exhorbitant symptome (while he lived) either in his animall, vitall, or naturall parts; for he had his intellectualls and senses very entire to the last, and his sleep for the most part very sufficient and quiet: as for the vitall parts, they were all found very sound, and (while he lived) they were perfect in their actions and uses. And as for the naturall parts contained in the lower belly, they did not otherwise suffer then from that large imposthume that was there contained, the stomach being smoothe and faire in all its coates, the substance of the liver and kidnies good enough, onely much altered in their colour,

the spleen was fair but little. But the most ignoble part of this lower belly, the *mesentry* was found *fundi calamitas*, the shop wherein the instrument of his dissolution was forged, there being a large abscesse or imposthume which wrought itselfe to such a bulke, as was easily discovered by the outward touch of his physitians at the beginning of his complaining, and did increase to that capacity as (being opened) did receive a hand contracted, and in its growth, did so oppresse the gall and stop its vessels, as occasioned the jaundice. Beside this abscesse (by the matter contained in it) did so offend the parts adjacent, as most of them suffered by its vicinity, yet without any such turbulent symptome, as did at any time cause him to complaine of paine, being sensible only of some soreness upon the touch of the region of the part affected, and from its vapours the stomack suffered a continuall inappetency and frequent nauseousness, and it did so deprave and hinder the concoction, distribution, and perfection of nourishment, as it produced an *atrophy*, or falling of the flesh. So that inappetency, faintnesse, and nauseousnesse were the great complaints he usually made. At last after a long languishment, this imposthume breaking, he often fainted, and soone after followed his dissolution, December the 8, 1643, about 7 a clocke at night.

Attested by the physitians that attended him in his sicknes,

Sir Theodor Mayern,
Dr. Clerk,

Dr. Meverell, President of the College of Physicians.
 Dr. Gifford,
 Dr. Micklethwaite, } that were present at the dis-
 Dr. Moulin, } section of his body, (together
 Dr. Collade, } with two of those above-men-
 And Chyrurgions, } tioned.)
 Thomas Allen, and
 Henry Axtall, his servant.
 Apothecary,
 John Chapman, servant to William Taylor."

Granger enumerates the following engraved portraits of Pym :—

1. John Pym, esq. engraved by Glover, after a painting by Bower.
2. Johannes Pym, Edelman, &c. copied from the preceding by C. Visscher.
3. Maistre Pin, (Pym) &c. in a fur gown ; quarto, a scarce and curious print.
4. John Pym, esq. engraved by Houbraken, from a painting in the possession of Thomas Hales, esq. in Birch's Illustrious Heads.
5. John Pym, esq. a small oval, by Hollar.
6. John Pym, esq. engraved by Vandergucht.

Grainger⁶⁷ gives the following account of Pym :—

"He was member for Tavistock, in Devonshire, and was the greatest leader of the House of Commons

⁶⁷ Vol. III. p. 4.

in the long parliament. He was a remarkable instance of what strength of parts and force of eloquence could effect. He was commonly called "King Pym," and seemed alone capable of overturning the throne. His personal weight was superior to authority; but he was thought by many to have made a very ill use of his power. His intent was to reform, not to abolish, the government; but he was a principal engine in bringing about a revolution which he never intended, and which he did not live to see."

This John Pym, by Anna, daughter of John Hooker, esq. who died in 1620, and who is said to have been a woman of rare accomplishments and learning, left several children, the eldest of whom Charles, was, on the restoration, created a baronet. He was succeeded in his honour and estates by a son of his own name, who dying without issue, the estate devolved upon his sister Mary, the wife of Sir Thomas Hales, bart.

GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF HALES,
OF BRYMORE, BARONETS.

Vis unita fortior.—Force when united becomes the stronger.

Arms—*Gules*, three broad Arrows, *Or*, headed and feathered, *Argent*. Crest—On a wreath, a dexter arm, bended at the elbow, and armed, proper, bound about with a ribband, *Gules*, holding an arrow, as in the arms.

This ancient family, in all probability, derived its name from the town of Hales, in the county of Norfolk; for, in the nineteenth of Henry II. (1173) Roger de Hales gave a tenement, of which he was possessed in that town, to the abbey of Bungay.⁶⁸ Another Roger de Hales, in the eighteenth of Edward I. (1290) was returned by the sheriff of Norfolk,⁶⁹ as a knight, on the jury, in a cause between the king, the bishop of Norwich, and Robert Tateshale, whom it is supposed is the same person, whose daughter, Alice, was so beautiful as to captivate Thomas de Brotherton, earl of Norfolk, and earl marshal, younger son of King Edward I. who married her, and from which marriage proceeded Margaret, who was created duchess of Norfolk, for life, in the twenty-first of Richard II. (1397) and from whom, by the Lord Segrave, her husband, descends the noble house of the Howards, dukes of Norfolk, and hereditary earls marshal of England.

This family afterward removed into the county of Kent, and according to Philipot,⁷⁰ gave name to their habitation in Halden, called from them Hales' Place, "from whence," says that writer, "as from a fountain, the several streams of the Hales's, that in divided rivulets have spread themselves over the whole county, did originally break forth."

Nicholas Hales, of Hales' Place, had issue, Sir Robert Hales, who was knight-prior of the hospital of St.

⁶⁸ Mon. Ang. vol. i.

⁶⁹ Ryley's Placit. Parl. p. 48.

⁷⁰ Vill. Cant. p. 176.

John of Jerusalem, and admiral of the north coasts of England, in the reign of Edward III. He was constituted treasurer of this kingdom in the fourth of Richard II.⁷¹ but in the same year had the hard fate, in the beginning of the insurrection under Wat Tyler, to be dragged from his house, and suffer death on Tower Hill.⁷²

He was succeeded by his brother and heir, Sir Nicholas de Hales, knt., who left issue Thomas de Hales, of Hales' Place, who had three sons; 1. John, his successor; 2. Thomas, from whom descended the Hales's of Warwickshire; 3. Henry, whose son, George, was of Ledenham, in Kent, and was father of Edward Hales, of Rumford, in Essex.

John, the eldest son, was possessed of Hales' Place, and was succeeded therein by Henry, his son and heir, who married Julian, daughter and heiress of Richard Capel, of Lenden, in Tenterden, esq. by whom he had issue two sons, 1. John, of whom presently; 2. Thomas, who was father of Sir Christopher Hales, a celebrated lawyer in the reign of Henry VIII. having been solicitor-general, attorney-general, and master of the rolls to that king.⁷³

John, elder son and heir of Henry Hales, of Hales' Place, had issue a son of his own name, John Hales, who was a student of the law in Gray's Inn, of which

⁷¹ Dugdale's Orig. Jurid.

⁷² Twysden Dec. Scriptor. Coll. 2634 and seq. in Knighton.

⁷³ Dugdale's Orig.

society he became autumnal reader, in the fifth of Henry VIII. (1514.) He was the acting steward of the abbey of St. Augustin in Canterbury, jointly with Sir Henry Guldeford, knt. comptroller of the king's house, and afterward with Thomas Howard, duke of Norfolk. In 1523, he was constituted one of the barons of the Court of Exchequer. He was seated at the Dungeon, near Canterbury, having purchased that place of Roger Brent, esq., and was living there when Leland visited Kent, in the thirtieth of Henry VIII. (1539.) He married Isabel, daughter and co-heiress of Stephen Harris, and had issue four sons, and a daughter, Mildred, married to John Honywood, of Seen, near Hithe, in Kent, esq. The sons were 1. James, the eldest; 2. Thomas, of Thanington, in Kent, ancestor of the Hales's of Becksbourne, in the same county, and of Brymore, in Somersetshire; of which branch of the family we shall next treat; 3. Edward, ancestor of the Hales's of Woodchurch; and 4. William, of Nackington.

Sir James, the eldest son, was a student of the law in Gray's Inn, and having been autumnal reader in the twenty-fourth of Henry VIII. (1533) was four years afterward chosen double lent-reader, and in the thirty-fifth of the same reign took the degree of serjeant at law. At the coronation of King Edward VI. he received with a number of others, the honour of knight-hood, and in the third year of that reign was constituted one of the justices of the court of common pleas; and was the only judge who refused, the rest being frightened

by the angry frown of Dudley, duke of Northumberland, to subscribe the king's will for disinheriting the ladies, Mary and Elizabeth, as against both law and conscience; yet, in the next reign, by the influence of Gardiner, bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor, he was committed to prison and treated with great severity for urging the observation of some laws made in the reign of Edward VI. He was, however, released by the queen, in consideration of his fidelity to her interests, and retired to his seat at Thanington, where he amused himself with the pleasures of a country life; but crossing the river over a narrow bridge, as he was walking in his meadows, he accidentally fell into it, and was drowned, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. Strype relates the manner of his death somewhat differently. Humphrey, his eldest son, had the seat and estates of the Dungeon, and was father of Sir James Hales, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth at Cobham Hall, in Essex, in 1573. This line is now extinct.

I now return to Thomas Hales, of Thanington, esq. second son of John Hales, one of the barons of the Court of Exchequer, and the direct ancestor of the Hales's of Becksbourne, in Kent, and of Brymore, in Somersetshire. He married Jane, sole daughter and heiress of Clement Holloway, esq. by whom he had Sir Charles, of Thanington, his son and heir, who married Anne, daughter of Robert Honywood, of Charing, in Kent, esq. (whose wife, Mary Honywood, had, at her decease, descended from her three hundred and

sixty-seven children; namely, sixteen of her own, one hundred and fourteen grand-children, two hundred and twenty-eight in the third generation, and nine in the fourth.)

Thomas, the eldest son of Sir Charles, married Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Peyton, of Knowlton, in Kent, bart., by whom he had issue three sons; 1. Sir Robert; 2. Samuel, of New Windsor, in Berks, who by Frances, daughter of Sir Robert Bennet, of Windsor, knt. had issue; 3. Stephen; 4. Mary, married to Andrew Plumpton, of New Windsor, esq.

Sir Robert Hales, the first baronet of this family, so created on the 12th of July, 1660, (twelfth of Charles II.) married Catharine, daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Ashcomb, of Alecot, in the county of Oxford, knt., by whom he had issue; 1. Thomas, of whom presently; 2. William, who married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Samuel Bland, of London, esq., one of the gentlemen of the band of pensioners, by whom he had one son, Robert Hales, esq. who married Martha, daughter of Mr. Wickham, a merchant of Falmouth, and had issue three sons; William, who died in his infancy; Robert, born June 28, 1712; and Joseph, born July 19, 1714, of whom his mother died in child-bed. He married secondly, Jane, daughter of ——— Green, by whom he had Edward, and four daughters; 1. Jane; 2. Anne; 3. Mary; and 4. Elizabeth—Longueville.

Thomas Hales, esq., eldest son of Sir Robert, died

during his father's lifetime, having married Mary, daughter and heiress of Richard Wood, of Abbot's-Langley, in the county of Herts, esq., by whom he had six sons and four daughters, namely, 1. Robert, who died young; 2. Thomas, who succeeded his grandfather, and of whom hereafter; 3. Charles; 4. Robert, one of the clerks of the king's most honourable privy council, who married Sarah, daughter and heiress of Willam Andrews, esq. (relict of Colonel Hallett) by whom he had two daughters; 1. Sarah, wife first of the Rev. Mr. Johnson, and secondly, of the Rev. Mr. Negus; 2. Jessica, wife first of — Clerk, of Swaffham; and secondly, of — Hudson. She died in July, 1768. 5. William, who died Feb. 18th, 1728-9, having married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of John Gillow, of the isle of Thanet, gent., by whom he had two sons and seven daughters; and 6. Stephen, B. D. and F. R. S. vicar of Teddington, in Middlesex, and rector of Farrington, in Hants, and also of Porlock, in the county of Somerset, of whom, see a memoir under the history of that parish at page 142 of this volume. He married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Dr. Henry Newce, of Much-Hadham, in the county of Herts. The daughters of Thomas Hales, esq. and Mary Wood, were 1. Mary, wife of the Hon. Robert Booth, D. D. dean of Bristol, and archdeacon of Durham, who died in August, 1730, and his lady in June, 1732.⁷⁴

⁷⁴By this lady, the dean of Bristol had five sons and four daughters, namely, 1. Robert; 2. George, in holy orders; 3. Edward; all of whom died unmarried.

2. Catharine; 3. Anne, wife of Samuel Mills, of Herne, in the county of Kent, esq. by whom he had six sons and six daughters; and 4. Elizabeth, wife of the Rev. John Metcalf, A. M. vicar of Sunbury, in the county of Middlesex, by whom he had one daughter.

Sir Thomas Hales, eldest surviving son of Thomas, (who died in the lifetime of his father) succeeded his grandfather in his dignity and estate. He represented the county of Kent, in parliament, in the reigns of King William and Queen Anne, and afterward the city of Canterbury. He married Mary, sister and heiress of Sir Charles Pym, of Brymore, in this county, bart., by whom he had seven sons and five daughters, namely, 1. Pym; 2. Richard, who died without issue; 3. *Sir Thomas*, third baronet; 4. Charles; 5. Robert; 6. William; 7. Charles. The daughters were, 1. Catherine; 2. Mary, wife of Sir Brook Bridges, bart.; 3. Catherine; 4. Anne; and 5. Elizabeth. Sir Thomas died in January, 1748, aged eighty-seven; and was succeeded by his third, but eldest, surviving son,

Sir Thomas Hales, third baronet; he was clerk of the board of green cloth, and member in the last parliament of King George I. for the borough of Minehead, in this county; and in the first parliament of

ried: 4. Nathaniel, who succeeded to the title of Baron Delamere, of Dunham-Massey, on the 18th of August, 1758, on the death of George, second earl of Warrington; his lordship died on the 9th of January, 1770, when the barony became extinct. 5. William, who died young. The daughters were 1. Mary, who died unmarried; 2. Elizabeth, wife of Charlton Thruppel, esq.; 3. Vere, wife of George Tyndall, esq.; 4. Catharine, died unmarried.

George II. for Camelford, and afterward for the borough of Grampound, in Cornwall. He married Mary, daughter of Sir Robert Marsham, of the Mote, near Maidstone, in Kent, father of the first Lord Romney. By this lady, who died on the 4th of August, 1769, he had six sons and eight daughters, namely, 1. *Sir Thomas Pym*, the fourth baronet; 2. Charles, a captain in the third regiment of foot guards; 3. Robert; 4. John; 5. George; 6. *Sir Philip*, fifth baronet. The daughters were, 1. Mary; 2. Mary, wife of Dr. Charles Moss, late lord bishop of Bath and Wells; she died on the 2nd of January, 1787; 3. Catherine; 4. Elizabeth; 5. Anne, first, wife of Anthony Duncombe, Lord Faversham, on whose death, in 1763, that title became extinct; she married, secondly, July 23, 1765, William, first earl of Radnor, who died June 28, 1776; 6. Margaretta, married, in 1769, Samuel Pechell, of Richmond, in the county of Surrey, esq., late a master in chancery; 7. Harriet; and 8. Caroline. Sir Thomas died on the 6th of October, 1762, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

Sir Thomas-Pym Hales, the fourth baronet, who married Mary, daughter and heiress of Gervas Haywood, esq., and relict of George Coussmaker, of Staple, in the county of Kent, esq. (who died May 15, 1803) by whom he had five daughters, namely, 1. Mary-Anne, born 1765; 2. Jane, born 1766, married, in July, 1795, the Rev. Henry Bridges, son of Sir Brooke Bridges, bart.; 3. Elizabeth, born 1769, married, in 1790, John

Calcraft, of Remstone Hall, in the county of Dorset, esq., by whom he had six sons and four daughters ; 4. Harriet, born 1770 ; 5. Caroline, born 1772, married, November 30, 1798, the Hon. William John Gore, second son of Arthur, earl of Arran, in Ireland. Sir Thomas-Pym Hales was member of parliament for Dover, and afterward for Downton ; and dying on the 18th of March, 1773, without issue male, the title descended to his only surviving brother.

Sir Philip Hales, the fifth baronet. He was one of the grooms of the bedchamber to the king, and married, in 1775, Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Smith, of Keyworth, in the county of Nottingham, esq. (descended from the elder branch of the family of *Smith*, Lord Carrington) by whom he had an only daughter, Elizabeth, now living at Brymore, in this county. Sir Philip died on the 2nd June, 1825, when the title became extinct.

LUXBOROUGH.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—VICARAGE.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—CHARITIES.—MANOR.—DOMESDAY SURVEY.—FAMILY OF EVERARD.—MANOR OF LANGHAM.

LUXBOROUGH, written in Domesday Book, *Lo-lochesberie*, and in Pope Nicholas's Taxation, 1291, *Logeberie*, is a small parish, four miles south from Dunster; and about nineteen north-west from Taunton. It is bounded on the north-west by the parish of Timberscombe; on the north by those of Carhampton and Withycombe; on the east by Treborough; on the south by Brendon Hill, in the Hundred of Williton and the Free Manors; and on the west by the parish of Cutcombe. This parish, which contains about three thousand acres of inclosed land, besides commons, lies at the head of the valley which runs up from a place called Tarr, in the parish of Nettlecombe, through Roadwater, in Old Cleeve; some extensive woods in the south-eastern part of the parish of Carhampton, and the northern part of Treborough. This valley, which is generally deep and narrow before it enters Luxborough,

here begins to expand and break into smaller ones. The land in these valleys, and some little way up the side, is generally good; but the high lands towards the hills are very indifferent, and much subject to furze. Here are some extensive woods which harbour a great many foxes, hares, heath-poults, pheasants, rabbits, and in winter woodcocks.

A part of Brendon Hill is in this parish, on which there are many barrows. The road over this hill a few years since being very bad, and presented as such by the magistrates at the quarter sessions, was ordered to be repaired by the several parishes through which it passes; in obeying which order, the workmen who were employed on that part which is in this parish, took the stones from one of the barrows to repair the road;⁷⁵ after removing a great many small ones of the sort commonly found on this hill, they came to a large sand-stone, about five feet by three, of which there is no quarry or rock of the kind known in the neighbourhood, on removing which, they found under it a large white slate; and on taking that away, discovered two holes in the native slate, in one of which was an earthenware urn, containing portions of bones; and in the other hole was a quantity of ashes. The urn fell to pieces on being taken up. There is another barrow of

⁷⁵ The antiquary has to lament, that whilst turnpike roads facilitate his visits to these remains of antiquity, the barbarity of turnpike surveyors will destroy the objects of his search; barrows, Druidical temples, and whatever comes in their way, fall a sacrifice to their sacrilegious hands.

the same kind close by. On Monkham Hill, on the north side of the parish, there is an extensive circle of large stones, and two barrows close to it; and in the neighbourhood there are also many other barrows.

The village of Luxborough is pleasantly situated on the side of a hill in the principal valley, facing the south. One mile westward from the church, there is a hamlet called POOL TOWN, through which runs a rivulet, which rises in Treborough, and here meets another coming from Langham Wood; soon after it is joined by a third, which comes from Old Stowey Farm, and passes close to Luxborough village; these turn two mills in this parish, and fall into the sea at Watchet. Another rivulet rises near Beech Tree, in the northern part of the parish; and after turning a grist mill, and passing through a part of the parish of Carhampton, falls into the river we have before described under the parish of Cutcombe, as coming from Dunkery, near the village of Timberscombe. All these streams contain trout and eels.

The late Sir John Lethbridge, bart., built a house here, called *Chargott Lodge*, at this time the residence of Rowland Unwin, esq.

There is no good road to this village from the Minehead turnpike up the valley we have described, after leaving Roadwater; but one could easily be made at a small expense, which would be of great advantage to the inhabitants, as well as to the proprietors of the woods through and by which it would pass. Report

says, that two of the principal proprietors of the lands and woods here have proposed to the third to make such a road, if the latter would allow them to go over a part of his land, which it is said he has refused to do; and the proposed road cannot be carried in any other line, without increasing the distance and encountering various acclivities. That any petty private reason should prevent that from being done which would be a general and public good, is much to be regretted.

The living of Luxborough is a vicarage, and has always, at least ever since 1291, been annexed to that of Cutcombe.⁷⁶ In the *Liber Regis*, the clear yearly value is certified to be £5 19s., and it is therein stated, that it is a chapel to Cutcombe.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of one aisle and a chancel, having a tower at the west end, with four bells. John Lethbridge, esq. who some short time since resided at Chargott-Lodge, built a small addition on the north side of the church, and converted it into two handsome pews.

There is not any monument in the church, but on the floor are the following inscriptions:—

“ Here lyeth the body of Ann, the wife of Robert Siderfin, of Croydon, esq. and daughter of Sir John Wittewronge, of Rothamstead, in the county of Hertford, bart., who died May 5, 1708. *In spe beatæ*

⁷⁶ See under Cutcombe.

resurrectionis." Arms, three cups, *Siderfin*; impaling bendy of six, on a chief a bar indented, *Wittewronge*.

"Here lyeth the body of Thomas Darch, of this parish, gent. who died August 12, 1734, aged 68, Sarah, relict of the said Thomas, survived her husband nearly twenty-eight years; she was a father to the poor, and eminent for the practice of virtue and true religion. She died May 24, 1762, aged 74. The memory of the just is blessed."

The first few leaves of the register are lost. That part which contains the marriages, begins in 1576; the baptisms 1578; and the deaths about the same time; the earliest part is almost illegible. From 1734 to 1738, there does not appear to have been a single marriage celebrated in the parish. The register contains that part which goes over the period of the commonwealth, when the parties were married by a justice of the peace.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish, on account of the poor, was £88 12s; and in 1785, was £89 14s. In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £207 18s. 7½d., at 5s. 5d. in the pound. In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, as assessed to the property tax, was £2161; and for part of the tithing of Brown, £510, (the other part of which is in Timberscombe); making together £2671. In 1818, the county rate was £2 15s. 7½d.

The constables of this parish are sworn into office at the hundred court of John Fownes Luttrell, esq.

In 1801, the resident population was 332.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for the parish of Luxborough stands thus :—

Number of inhabited houses	76
Uninhabited ditto	1
Building	0
Families	77

Of whom were chiefly employed :—

In agriculture	61
In trade	16
All others	0

Number of persons 387 :—

Males	203
Females	184

Increase in twenty years 55.

In the parochial returns, made to the House of Commons, on the education of the poor, in 1818, the Rev. G. Nibbs, the minister, states in his return, that there is only a reading school here, in which eight children are instructed by a woman ; and that the poor are generally desirous of more sufficient means of education.

In 1815, there were forty-eight poor in this parish.

CHARITIES.

In the fifteenth report of the Commissioners for inquiring into charities, there are the following particulars relating to the parish of Luxborough :—

"There appears to be a sum of £2 1s. now distributed among the second poor of this parish, out of the poors' rate. It has varied at different times, but no reason can now be given for such variations.

"This sum seems to have been paid in reference to several small gifts, derived from the following persons, namely :—the widow Pearse, £10; Thomas Darch, £2; George Washer, £10; Thomas Siderfin, £10; John Worth, £5; and Thomas Darch, £20; amounting together to £57; which were received by the parish officers, and appropriated to parish purposes. Out of this sum of £57, £22 appear to have been lost, in or about the year 1694, by the failure of the person in whose hands it then was. No trace now exists of the original gifts of the donors.

"This sum of £2 1s. is distributed at the discretion of the parish officers, among persons whom they consider as second poor."

In Domesday book, Luxborough is described as two distinct manors, having been holden as such in the reign of Edward the Confessor. Both these manors were granted to William de Mohun, Lord of Dunster, who regranted them to two of his attendants, and they are thus mentioned in the record :—

"Ralph holds of William de Mohun, LOLOCHESBERIE. Two Thanes held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one hide.

The arable land is sufficient for four ploughs. There are in the demesne, three bondmen and one plough ; and six villans and three bordars have three ploughs. There are one hundred acres of pasture, and thirty acres of wood. It is worth twenty shillings."⁷⁷

In the Exeter Domesday it is said, that one of these Thanes held three virgates, and the other one virgate. Ralph held one virgate in demesne, and the villan tenants three virgates. He had also here six bullocks, twelve hogs, and one hundred sheep. When he received this manor it was worth fifteen shillings."⁷⁸

"Nigel holds of the same William, LOLOCHESBERIE. Brismar held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for three ploughs. There are two acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, and thirty acres of wood. It was and is worth fifteen shillings."⁷⁹

In the Exeter Domesday it is said, that Nigel holds in demesne, one virgate, and the villans three virgates."⁸⁰

In the seventh of Edward I., John de Mohun, at his death, was found to be seized of certain knight's fees, in Luxborough, and in Luxborough-Everard."⁸¹

⁷⁷ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 96. ⁷⁸ Exon. D. fo. 339. ⁷⁹ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 96.

⁸⁰ Exon. D. vol. i. 339. ⁸¹ Inq. p. m. 7 Edw. I. No. 13.—Cal. vol. i. p. 66.

The family of Everard, which, says Leland,⁸² was set up by the Mohuns, held, for many generations, one of the portions of the manor of Luxborough, which was afterward distinguished by their name. The Everards bore for their arms, *Argent*, on a chief, *Gules*, three mullets of the first.

In the reign of Henry II., William Fitz-Everard held one knight's fee in Luxborough, of Reginald de Mohun, as of his castle of Dunster, of which this manor was always a member.

In the forty-second of Henry III., William Everard was sheriff of the counties of Somerset and Dorset; and in the tenth of Edward III., another William Everard was knight of the shire for Dorset, as he was again in the eleventh of the same reign. In the thirty-first and thirty-second of Edward III., Edward Everard occurs.

In the Inquisitions, I find the following particulars respecting some of the Everards:—

In the seventh of Edward I., William Everard, at his death, held lands in Stiveleghe, in the county of Somerset, and also the manor of Frome-[Belet,] in the county of Dorset, by the service of half a knight's fee, *de emptione D. Regine consortis Hen. de Novo Burgo*, and other lands and rents in the same counties, leaving Edmund his son and heir, then twenty-seven years of age.⁸³

⁸² Itin. vol. ii. p. 101.

⁸³ Inq. p. m. 7 Edw. I. No. 5.—Calendar, vol. i. p. 65.—Hutchins's Dorset, vol. i. p. 433.

Which Edmund Everard, in the twenty-third of Edward I., (1294) was summoned from the county of Somerset, to perform military service against the Welch, and to attend the muster and military council at Worcester, on the 21st of November. Three years afterward (1297) he was returned from the counties of Somerset and Dorset, as holding lands or rents to the amount of £20 yearly and upwards, either *in capite*, or otherwise; and as such was summoned to perform military service, in person, with horses and arms, in parts beyond the seas, and to attend the muster at London, on the 7th of July. In the twenty-eighth of the same reign, (1300) he was again returned from the same counties as holding lands *in capite*, to the yearly value of £40, and was summoned to perform military service against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Carlisle, on the 24th of June. In the following year, he was summoned from the counties of Bedford and Bucks, to go against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Berwick, on the 24th of June. In the thirty-fourth of the same reign, (1306) he was returned knight of the shire for Somerset, and obtained his writ *de expensis*, for attendance in the parliament of that year.⁶⁴ At his death in the fifteenth of Edward II., he held the said manor of Stiveleghe, forty acres of wood in the forest of Neroche, and the manor of Frome-Belet, as above; William, being his son and heir, then thirty

⁶⁴ Palgrave's Parl. Writs, vol. I. p. 587.

years old. This Edmund, presented in the year 1315 to the rectory of Frome-Belet, and in 1307 and 1309, to the rectory of West-Stafford, in the county of Dorset.⁸⁵

Which William Everard and Beatrix his wife, in the second of Edward III., held the manor of Frome-Belet, as before, and also the manor of Stivelegh ; and in the seventeenth of the same reign, the same William held at his death various manors, lands, and rents, in the counties of Somerset and Dorset, leaving Edmund his son and heir, aged thirty years. This William Everard presented to the rectory of Frome-Belet, and to the rectory of West-Stafford, on many vacancies of those livings.⁸⁶

Edmund Everard, his son and heir, in the thirtieth of Edward III., enfeofed Thomas Lydyard and others with one hundred acres of land in Frome-Belet, &c., remainder to the said Edmund ; and in the forty-fourth of the same reign, he departed this life, possessed of two carucates of land in Stivelegh, and also of the manor of Ashill, in the county of Somerset, and of various lands in the counties of Wilts and Berks ; and that Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Robert Londres, knt., and Mary, formerly the wife of Thomas Remmesbury, chevalier, were his sisters and co-heir-

⁸⁵ Inq. p. m. 15. Edw. II. No. 43.—Calendar, vol. i. p. 300.—Hutchins ante.

⁸⁶ Inq. p. m. 17. Edw. III. No. 27.—Calendar, vol. ii. p. 109.—Hutchins ante.

esses. This Edmund Everard presented twice to the rectory of Frome-Belet, and once to the rectory of West-Stafford aforesaid.⁸⁷

In the fiftieth of the same king, Patrick Everard was found to hold nine acres of land in Dunster.⁸⁸

In the second of Edward III. Edmund Everard was parson of the church of Colsterworth.⁸⁹

The last person of this branch of the Everards lived in the reign of Charles I., and sold Luxborough-Everard to Sir John Wyndham, knt. from whom it has descended to the earl of Egremont, the present proprietor.

Some land and wood in this parish, with a common of one hundred acres, or more, all adjoining to Lord Egremont's property, belong to Miss Newton, who lately succeeded to this estate on the death of her brother, who was descended from the Everards of Aller, in Carhampton.

In the inquisition taken after the decease of John de Mohun, in the fourteenth of Edward I. reciting the knights' fees holden by him in this county, the abbot of Cleeve and Maurice de Luxborough are certified to hold of the said John, one knight's fee in Luksborough-Pyket, and Gilbert de la Putte the same in Luksborough-

- ⁸⁷ Inq. p. m. 39 & 44. Edw. III. No. 28 & 26.—Calendar, vol. ii. pp. 272 & 304.—Hutchins *ante*.

⁸⁸ Inq. p. m. 50. Edw. III. No. 40.—Calendar, vol. ii. p. 357.

⁸⁹ Inq. 2 Edw. III. No. 38.

Kyne;⁹⁰ both of them being manors within this parish, and so denominated from their ancient owners.

It is probable that the Maurice de Luxborough above-mentioned had a son who might be the same person with *William de Lorkeburgh*, who, in the twenty-eighth of Edward I. (1300) was returned by the sheriff of Somerset and Dorset as holding lands or rents, either in capite or otherwise, to the amount of £40 yearly value and upwards, and as such was summoned to perform military service against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Carlisle on the 24th of June.⁹¹

All Sir T. B. Lethbridge's property in this parish and neighbourhood has been lately purchased by the trustees of — Beach, esq., a young gentleman of Staffordshire, at present under age.

In 1790, the Rev. Chancellor Nutcombe⁹² held a manor in Luxborough, which after his death passed to the family of Worth,⁹³ who sold it to the late Sir John Lethbridge, bart.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth there were some

⁹⁰ Inq. p. m. 14 Edw. I.

⁹¹ Palgrave's Writs of Mil. Serv. vol. i. p. 713.

⁹² The family of Nutcombe can be traced in Devonshire to the reign of Richard II. Richard Nutcombe, esq. the last heir male, died in 1736. The Rev. Nutcombe Quicke, late chancellor of the diocese of Exeter, took the name of Nutcombe by act of parliament in 1792, and died in 1809, without issue male.—Lysons' Devon, part i. p. 208.

The family of Quicke, of Newton St. Cyres, in Devonshire, were originally of Somersetshire. They bear Sable, a chevron vaire, Or and Sable, between three griffins' heads, erased, of the second.—Crest, a demi-antelope, Argent, armed, attired, tufted, and maned, Gules, collared, Sable, lined, Or.

⁹³ The family of Worth, of Worth, near Tiverton, can be traced as far back

proceedings in chancery, in which James Foster was plaintiff and Robert Siderfinne defendant, respecting a lease of land, parcel of the manor of Luxborough, of which manor John Foster, the plaintiff's grandfather, was lord, and after him James Foster, the plaintiff's father, who demised the said land to William Siderfinne, deceased.⁹⁴

MANOR OF LANGHAM.

The manor of Langham is thus described in Domesday Book :—

“Three soldiers (*milites*) of William de Mohun hold LANGEHAM. Three Thanes held it in parage, (that is, in equal parts) in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for six ploughs. There are in demesne three ploughs, with one bondman; and five villans and eight bordars have three ploughs and a half. There is a mill, which renders three shillings; four acres of meadow, sixty acres of pasture, and thirty-six acres of wood. It was and is worth thirty shillings.”⁹⁵

The Exeter Domesday adds that the three soldiers held half a hide and one ferding, and three ploughs in demesne; and the villan tenants the other land. The

as the reign of Henry III. They bear for their arms, *Ermine*, an eagle displayed with two necks, *Sable*.—Crest, an arm erect, vested and gloved, *Ermines*, holding an eagle's leg couped at the thigh, *Or*.

⁹⁴ Calendar of Proceedings in Chancery, p. 292, No. 54.

⁹⁵ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo.

soldiers had here eight bullocks, three hogs, seventy-five sheep, and thirty-four goats.⁹⁶

On the death of John de Mohun, in the seventh of Edward I. he was found to hold certain knights' fees in the manor of Langham.⁹⁷

The manor of Langham was afterward holden by the families of Tort of Oule-Knowle, and Botville, from whom it derived the appellation of Langham-Tort, and after the Torts, of Langham-Botville. In the thirty-first of Henry VI. Thomas Whalesborough, cousin and heir of Simon Ralegh, of Nettlecombe, was found to release to William Gascoigne and others, all his rights in Pole, Langham-Tort, and Langham-Botville in this parish, and in Bardeslegh, in the parish of Carhampton.

There seems to be some confusion in the account of the descent of this property, occasioned by there being another Langham in the parish of Cutcombe. Col-linson states that the Langham of which we are now treating, came into the possession of the family of Hales, through the families of Dodisham and Pym; but I am informed that this was not the case. Langham in Luxborough belonged to the family of Darch, one of whom is buried in Luxborough Church, from whom it passed to a Mr. Inman, who sold it to the late Sir John Lethbridge, bart.; and *Butchers*, another

⁹⁶ Exon. D. fo 337.

⁹⁷ Inq. p. m. 7 Edw. I. No. 13.

estate belonging to the same parties, to a Mr. Kent, who gave it to his daughter, now deceased, who was married to Mr. Thomas Pearse, the present owner.

It seems from what is said of the value of Langham in Domesday, and the other two manors in the same parish, surveyed at the same time, that a portion of Brendon Hill must then have been cultivated with it, which it is believed belongs to it now; ridges being still perceptible on many parts of this hill, apparently thrown up by the plough. At the present moment Langham, in point of value, bears no comparison with the rest of Luxborough, although in the record above-mentioned the value is exactly equal to that of both manors. In fact there is no accounting for the difference in value of some lands as compared with that of others, now, and when the survey was taken, but by supposing that then many of the high lands were cultivated that are not now, and that some of our best low lands now, were then

“ Some dreary, bleak, and wild morass,

“ Or woody forest—foeman’s pass—”

Besides the owners of the manors above-mentioned, the following gentlemen hold freehold property in this parish:—Sir John Trevelyan, bart.; John Fownes Luttrell, esq.; Richard Beague, esq.; Mr. Thomas Pearse; Mr. James Taylor; Mr. John Whitefield; Mr. James Pocock; and Mr. Richard James.

The great tithes are in lay hands, and like those of Cutcombe, belong to several persons.

TREBOROUGH.⁹⁸

DESCRIPTION.—RECTORY.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL. NOTICES.—MANOR.—DOMESDAY SURVEY.—FAMILY OF BASINGES.—MANOR OF BROWN.—HISTORY OF MANORS.

TREBOROUGH, a small parish lying in the south-eastern extremity of this hundred, and on the north side of Brendon Hill. It is bounded on the west by the parish of Luxborough, on the north by that of Carhampton and a part of the Hundred of Williton and the Free Manors, and by the latter on all other sides. It is six miles south-east from Dunster, and fourteen west from Taunton. Nearly the whole of this parish belongs to Sir John Trevelyan, bart., who has here some extensive and fine woods: the soil is a stone rush upon a white slate, or a white rag upon the same. The white slate in this parish contains some grey lime stones mixed with it. Here also is a quarry of excellent blue slate, now in full work; on some of these slates there are faint impressions of a kind of fern, easily discernable when first dug out, but soon effaced on exposure to wet. Some of the lands in this parish are good, con-

⁹⁸ *Treborough*, from the British *trif*, a town, and the Anglo-Saxon *burh*, so that *Tre-Borough* seems to be a duplication of words of the same meaning, expressed in different languages.

sidering their high situation, and produce fair crops, but the principal source of profit to the farmer is breeding. This parish is divided into seven farms; the most considerable of which is "Court Farm," which includes a part, if not all, of the ancient manor of Brown. Barrows and cairns are found on all the surrounding hills, and an ancient road, said to be British, that must have been once much used, is still discernable. It is highly probable, from its name and other circumstances, that this village occupies the site of an ancient British town.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and is valued in the king's books at £7 10s. 4½d. It is discharged from the payment of tenths, the clear yearly value having been certified to be £47 11s. 1½d. In 1695, Edmund Wyndham, esq. presented to this living, and in 1757, John Trevelyan, esq. The patronage is now in Sir John Trevelyan, bart. The present rector is the Rev. G. Trevelyan, a son of the Rev. Walter Trevelyan, rector of Nettlecombe and Henbury.

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* there are the following particulars relating to this benefice:—

1535. John Dovell, Rector.

Annual value of the demesne, or			
glebe lands	1	0	8
Tithes of wool and lamb	1	14	3
Predial tithes	4	10	7
Casualties.	0	15	0½
<hr/>			
	£8	0	6½

<i>Brought up</i>		£8	0	6½
Out of which sum there is paid				
To the bishop of Bath for				
procurations	0	1	0	
To the archdeacon of Taun-				
ton for synodals	0	9	2—0	10 2
Clear . . .				£7 10 4½

The church is a small building, dedicated to St. Peter, fifty feet long, and fifteen wide. There is a low tower on the south side, and a porch at the west end. The tower contains three bells.

The church contains neither monument nor inscription of any kind. The font is of stone, and the pedestal, column, and basin appear to be of one piece; the basin is octagonal, and supported by an angel at each angle; the whole being ornamented in deep relief. In the south side of the chancel there is projecting from a small sculptured arch in the wall a stone basin.

In the churchyard there are the remains of a stone cross, the shaft of which is gone.

The oldest registers that I was able to see all begin in 1813, since which time there have been three weddings, thirty-eight burials, and fifty-nine baptisms; nineteen of the persons buried, and twenty of the children baptized belonged to other parishes. This seems to be a very healthy parish, as within the period above-mentioned, one of the persons buried appears to have attained the age of ninety-seven years, another ninety-four years, and many between that and seventy years.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £13 4s. 10d.; and in 1785, £17 5s.

In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £81 19s. 8d. at 3s. 6d. in the pound.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, including part of the hamlet of Brown, as assessed to the property tax, was £732. In 1818, the county rate was 15s. 3d.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor made to the House of Commons in 1818, the Rev. G. Trevelyan, the rector, states that there are eight or ten children here taught to repeat their catechism after divine service. The poorer classes are extremely desirous of further means of educating their children.

In 1815, there were seventeen poor here.

In 1801, the resident population in this parish was 132.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Treborough stands thus:—

Houses inhabited.....	20
Uninhabited	1
Building	1
Families	20
Of whom were employed	
In agriculture	20
In trade	0
All other	0

Persons 113 :—

Males	64
Females	49
Decrease in 20 years	19.

In Domesday Book the manor of Treborough is thus described :

“Ralph [de Limesi] himself holds TRABERGE. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for half a hide. The arable land is sufficient for five ploughs. There is in the demesne one plough. There is one villan and thirty acres of wood ; a pasture one mile in length, and the same in breadth. It is worth seven shillings, but it now lies waste [or uncultivated.]⁹⁹

In the Exeter Domesday it is said that the whole land of this manor is in demesne, except ten acres which are held by a villan.¹

After the Conquest, Treborough came into the possession of the family of Basinges, or de Basinges, lords of Kentsford, in the parish of St. Decnman's. The first of this family of whom we find any mention is Hamo de Basinges, whose son William was living in the twelfth of Edward I. and then held the manor of Kentsford of John de Mohun, lord of Dunster. He was succeeded in the eighth of Edward II. by John de Basinges ; in the twenty-sixth of Edward I. (1297) this John was summoned to perform military service

⁹⁹ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 97.

¹ Exon. D. fo. 429.

in person in Flanders, and to attend the muster at Sandwich, on the 24th of November; three years afterward he was returned from the counties of Somerset and Dorset, as holding lands either in capite or otherwise to the amount of £40 yearly value and upwards, and as such was summoned to perform military service against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Carlisle, on the 24th of June; in the twenty-ninth of the same reign, (1301) he was again summoned from the county of Somerset, to perform military service in person against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Berwick, on the 24th of June.² He was succeeded by another John, who in the forty-third of Edward III. was lord of the manor of Treborough, and had issue Gilbert Basinges, of Kentsford, who was living in the twentieth of Richard II., and in the seventh of Henry V. was succeeded by another Gilbert, then under age. He died in the sixteenth of Henry VI. leaving by Isabella, his wife, Simon de Basinges his son and heir, which Simon dying without issue, Eleanor his sister, married to John Hamme, became possessed of Treborough and Kentsford; and in conjunction with her said husband, in the twentieth of Henry VI. passed over all her right in these manors to Sir William Bonville and others, in trust for Richard Luttrell; and in the twenty-fourth of Henry VI. being then the wife of John Williams, levied a fine to the said trustees.

² Palgrave's Writs of Military Summons, p. 448.

This Richard Luttrell, who was an illegitimate son of Sir John Luttrell, was in the twenty-second of Henry VI. appointed constable of Dunster Castle for life; and in the following year coroner for the county of Somerset. In the twenty-ninth of Henry VI. he was, with Sir William Bonville, appointed by the duke of York keeper of the king's park at North-Petherton, and the same year steward of all the lands belonging to the duke of York in Somersetshire, and keeper of his castle at Bridgwater. In the thirty-third of the same reign he accounted for timber cut down in the king's manor of North-Petherton, and died the same year without issue, whereupon his estates reverted to Sir James Luttrell, of Dunster Castle. This Richard Luttrell was possessed at the time of his death of the manors of Treborough, Kentsford, Donniford, Vexford, and lands in Stogumber, Huish juxta Highbridge, and Exton, all in this county.

On the attainder of Sir James Luttrell, in the first of Edward IV. the manors of Treborough and Kentsford, with the other lands, were granted to William, Lord Herbert, afterward earl of Pembroke, but on the reversal of that attainder in the twelfth of Henry VII. this manor devolved upon Sir Hugh Luttrell, knt. in whose descendants it continued till in the time of King Edward VI. Sir John Luttrell, grandson of Sir Hugh, sold it to Sir John Wyndham, who gave it to Edward his second son, progenitor of the Wyndhams of Kentsford, Trent, Pillesdon, and Tale. The manor of

Treborough was afterward conveyed into other hands, and is now the property of Sir John Trevelyan, bart.

MANOR OF BROWN.

Within the parish of Treborough lies the ancient manor of BROWN, so called from the British *brynn*, the same as the Latin *mons*, a mountain, from its mountainous situation on the *Brendon Hills*. It is thus described in Domesday Book :—

“Durand holds of William [de Mohun] BRUNE. Edwold held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for six ploughs. There are in the demesne two ploughs and a half, and two bondmen. Thirteen villans and three bordars have four ploughs. There is one acre of meadow, eighty acres of pasture, and twelve acres of wood. It was formerly worth twenty shillings, now it is worth forty shillings.”³

In the Exeter D. it is said that Durand has half a hide in demesne, and the villan tenants half a hide. Durand has here two horses, fifteen bullocks, twenty-three hogs, and two hundred sheep wanting ten, and forty-four goats.⁴

The manor of Brown was afterward held of the castle of Dunster by the Martins, progenitors of those of that family of Athelampston, in the county of Dorset.

³ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 25. b.

⁴ Exon. D. fo. 336.

It now belongs to Sir John Trevelyan, bart. — Beach, esq. has some freehold property here, which he lately purchased of Sir Thomas B. Lethbridge, bart.

The church of Dunster has an estate belonging to the vicar for the time being, called Blackwells.

MANORS.

Manors, although in substance, perhaps, as ancient as the Saxon constitution, are considered by our best writers on English antiquities as of Norman introduction. Sir William Dugdale says, the reign of Edward the Confessor is the first in which they are mentioned; a circumstance which is easily accounted for by the fondness of Edward for Norman institutions. "Tennit de Rege E. pro M." occurs frequently in the early part of the survey. The name is either from the French *manoir*, or from the Latin *manendo*, as the usual residence of the owner on his land.

The assistance which William the Conqueror obtained in his expedition from the Norman barons was voluntary, and evidently given with a view to the possessions which were afterwards obtained. This accounts for the circumstance in Domesday, that the king's lands are almost uniformly those which Edward, Harold, Earl Godwin, Ghida the mother of Harold, Goda the sister of King Edward, Guert, Tosti, Stigand, Algar earl of Mercia, Earl Edwin, Earl Morcar, Edric, or Editha, the Confessor's queen had held; while the lands of the Saxon nobles appear to have been doled out to the officers of the Conqueror's army, apparently either in proportion to their rank in Normandy, or according to the supplies they furnished in the expedition. "Those," says Lord Chief Baron Gilbert,⁵ "who held their territories immediately from the crown, were said to hold *in capite*; but those who held *in capite* had other officers, subordinate to them; *they* also granted to hold of themselves. These intermediate persons were denominated

⁵ Law of Tenures, Introd. p. 10.

the mesne lords, of whom so much is spoken in our laws. Even these divided their lands amongst their followers; and every lordship or manor was itself the similitude of the kingdom at large. The lord divided his manor, as the state had divided the kingdom into two parts; the one he retained for his own support, and was partly cultivated by his villan [tenants] and copyholders, and was called his demesnes; the other part was parcelled out among his dependants, who returned him their services." Such was the history, and such the multiplication of manors in the times immediately succeeding the Norman Conquest. The statute of *Quia Emptores* put an end to their farther increase.⁶

⁶ Ellis's Introd. to D. B. p. lxxxij.

WITHYCOMBE.⁷

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—RECTORY.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—MANORS.—FAMILY OF FITZ-URSE.—BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF THE REV. JOHN NICOLLS.

ENTERING this hundred by the turnpike road from Taunton, the first parish is Withycombe. It is bounded on the west and north by the parish of Carhampton, on the east by the hundred of Williton and the Free Manors, and on the south by Carhampton and Luxborough. From a field survey, taken in the year 1821, it was found to contain seventeen hundred and ninety-three acres, twelve hundred and six of which are inclosed; the remainder is a common called Withycombe Hill, and a sheep walk attached to Gupworthy Farm, called Black Hill. The former measures about one hundred and eighty-four acres, and a considerable part of it has been cultivated, the ridges being still very perceptible; the highest point of this hill is called the Fire Beacon, and without doubt, has been used as such in former times. On the southern side, near a farm called Higher Dumbleden, there is a circle of stones

⁷ Withycombe, from the Anglo-Saxon *Witig*, the same as the Latin *Salix*, a withy, willow, or osier; and *Combe*, a valley; that is, the *Valley of Willows*.

which has every appearance of being a druidical remain. Most of the estates in this parish have rights of common on this hill, and as formerly the occupiers of estates having rights of common used in many instances to cultivate certain parts of the same, there can be little doubt but such was the case here, which accounts for the ridges and the decayed mounds that might have been boundaries, which are still to be seen. Black Hill measures four hundred and three acres, and a part of it is covered with dwarf oak coppice and whortleberry plants. The inhabitants of the parish have a right to cut this coppice for fuel. On the top of this hill, near Monkham Common, and not far from the circle of stones and barrows described in our account of the parish of Luxborough, there are two cairns, one of them large and similar to that class of barrows called by Sir Richard Colt Hoare the bowl barrow. The low lands of this parish are good, and some of them equal, if not superior, to any in the hundred. A stream of water, rising in a deep glen called *Redgirts*, between Black and Radhuish Hills, passes through this parish, and after turning a mill in the village, and irrigating a considerable quantity of land, joins another stream, and both fall into the sea at Blue Anchor. The village, which consists of two straggling streets of mean houses, deep worn roads, and high old-fashioned causeways, is pleasantly situated about a quarter of a mile on the south of the turnpike road, at the entrance of a deep valley which runs up between some well-cultivated hills,

that surround the place on all sides, except towards the north, where it looks out upon a rich plain that extends to the Bristol Channel, of which it commands a view, as well as of the coast of South Wales. In this parish there is a wood of twenty acres on the left of the turnpike road going westward; it covers the sides and top of the northern part of a ridge that passes down to the eastward of the village, and was a very fine object from any part of the neighbourhood before it was cut down, about ten years since; but it has again been replanted by J. F. Luttrell, esq. and is now becoming a prominent and conspicuous feature in the face of the country. There is no manor house, though a farm house, still called *Court Place*, is said to be the site of one; there is however a fine estate with a manerial-looking house on it, called Sandell, built in the year 1588, as appears by an inscription in the great hall; this was the property and residence of a branch of the Escott family until within these few years, when it was purchased by J. F. Luttrell, esq. and is now occupied as a farm house. It was purchased by one of the Escott's of Sir Charles Morgan, of Tredegar. There is a detached part of this parish, of about ten acres, on the shores of Blue Anchor Bay, between the parishes of Carhampton and Old Cleeve, and another detached part entirely within the latter parish, in the Hundred of Williton and the Free Manors. Black game is found on Black Hill, and pheasants, partridges, hares, and rabbits abound in this parish.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and is valued in the king's books at £10 11s. 4d. In 1715, Lord Carnarvon presented to this living, and in 1767, John Hutton, esq. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* there are the following particulars relating to this benefice:—

1535. John Buller, Rector.

Annual value of the demesne or glebe			
lands	0	6	0
Personal tithes with other casualties. .	10	15	0
<hr/>			
	£11	1	0

Out of which sum there is paid

To the archdeacon of Taunton for procurations	0	9	8
<hr/>			

Clear....£10 11 4

The present value of the living is about £250 per annum.

The advowson of this living was left by a lady to Mr. Mason and Mr. Hutton, in trust, to present, first, a relation of the testatrix's, but if no such relation should appear to claim it, then to a scholar of the free-grammar school at Beverley, in Yorkshire; but if not so claimed, then to a member of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Mr. Hutton is now the surviving trustee.

The register begins in 1669, but is imperfect from 1713 to 1720.

RECTORS OF WITHYCOMBE.

1669. John Uppington.
 1670. Thomas Collard, who built the parsonage house.
 1690. John Jenkins.
 1743. Samuel Rogers.
 1767. ——— Inman.
 ——— ——— Bowman.

A. C. Verelst, present rector, 1829.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a small building, consisting of a nave and chancel, tiled. On the south side stands a square embattled tower, thirty-six feet high, containing four bells.

On a brass plate in the chancel there is this inscription :—" Here lyeth the bodie of Joane Carne, of Sandell, who was thrice married; first, unto John Newton, of Sandell, gent. ; next unto Charles Wyndham, esquire; and last of all unto Thomas Carne, of Eweny, in the county of Glamorgan, esq. Shee died on the nine and twentieth day of October, 1612."

On a stone :—" Here lyeth the body of Samuel Rogers, M. A. rector of this parish; and under the next stone, on the right hand, lies the body of his dear sister Elizabeth. He died Jan. 26, 1767, aged 79. She died Sept. 2, 1749."

On a tablet against the north wall of the nave :—" Underneath lyeth the body of Elianor Sully, daughter of Richard Sully and Margaret his wife, who was wife

of Henry Chester, and Giles Dawberie, who died Aug. 27, 1730, aged 88.—What is more miserable than a living man without divine assistance?”

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £44 3s.; and in 1785, £92 4s.

In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £225 12s. 8d. at 9s. 4d. in the pound.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, as assessed to the property tax, was £1843.—In 1818, the county rate was £1 18s. 4½d.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons in 1818, the Rev. Arthur Charles Verelst, the rector, states that there is not any school in this parish, but that there is one in an adjoining parish, but the distance is too far for very young children, and all the poorer classes are desirous of having a school established in the parish.

In 1815, there were twenty-one poor here.

In 1801, the resident population of this parish was 283.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Withycombe stands thus:—

Houses inhabited.	44
Uninhabited	0
Building	2
Families	61

Of whom were employed

In agriculture	41
In trade	17
All other	3

Persons 319 :—viz.

Males	157
Females ..	162
Increase in 20 years.....	36

The manor of this place is divided into Withycombe-Hadley and Withycombe-Wick, but both portions are now vested, and have been for several generations, in the family of Luttrell, of Dunster Castle.

At the time of the Norman Conquest, the whole manor of Withycombe belonged to the bishop of Coutances, and it is thus described in Domesday Book :—

“Edmer holds of the bishop [of Coutances] WIDICUMBE. Alnod held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for three hides. The arable land is sufficient for ten ploughs. There are in the demesne two ploughs and six bondmen. Fourteen villans and seven bordars have eight ploughs. There are ten acres of meadow, five hundred and fifty acres of pasture, and ninety-six acres of wood. It was worth four pounds, but now it is worth six pounds.⁷

In the Exeter Domesday it is added that “Edmer has one hide in demesne, and the villans two hides.

⁷ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 83.

Edmer has here one horse, three bullocks, ten hogs, forty sheep, and thirty goats."^a

The family of *Fitz-Urse* possessed the manor of Withycombe in very early times after the Norman Conquest. In the reign of King Stephen this family, the name of which in after days degenerated into Fitzour, Fyshour, and Fisher, became possessed of the extensive manor of Williton. They had their descent from that Ursa, or Ursus, who in the time of William the Conqueror held lands in *Grittleton*,⁹ and other parts of Wiltshire, of the abbey of Glastonbury. The first of the name that enjoyed the manor of Williton was Richard Fitz-Urse, who died before the twelfth of Henry II. leaving issue three sons, Sir Reginald, Sir Robert, and Walter.

Sir Reginald Fitz-Urse had his residence at Williton, in a house which he afterward gave to his brother Robert, together with a moiety of the manor of Williton. In the twelfth of Henry II. on the payment of the aid for the marriage of that king's daughter, he returned his knights fees to be three in number and the sixth part of a fee. He was the principal person concerned in the murder of Thomas à Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1169, under whom he served as a knight while chancellor of England. The names of the other assassins were William Tracy, Hugh de Morville, and Richard Brito, or Bret, all of them con-

^a Exon. D. fo. 129,

⁹ Domesday B. vol. 1. fo. 66, b. col. 2.

ned with the county of Somerset, distinguished by nobility of descent, renowned in war, and favourites of the king, Henry II.

Soon after the death of Becket, namely in 1171, this Sir Reginald Fitz-Urse bestowed the remainder of his manor of Williton on the knights of St. John of Jerusalem. The other part, as we have already mentioned, was possessed by his brother Robert, who rebuilt the chapel of Williton, and in consideration of releasing his right to the patronage of it, Savaricus, bishop of Wells and Glastonbury, agreed that the prebendary of St. Decuman's should always find a chaplain to perform divine offices, and to reside in the village of Williton.

He was succeeded by John Fitz-Urse, his son, who was living in the time of King John. After him,

Ralph Fitz-Urse was lord of Williton in the forty-second of King Henry III. 1257, being then a knight; he died before the sixth of Edward I. (1277) leaving by Margaret his wife,

Ralph Fitz-Urse, also a knight, who in the twenty-eighth of Edward I. (1300) was returned from the county of Somerset, as holding lands or rents, either in capite or otherwise, to the amount of £40 yearly value and upwards, and as such was summoned to perform military service against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Carlisle on the 24th of June; and in the following year he was again summoned to go in person against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Berwick.

In the eighteenth of Edward II. he was summoned to attend the army in Gascony. He held two parts of a knight's fee in Brompton-Ralph, which village seems to have derived its second name from this Ralph or his father, under Thomas de Tymmeworth and Lucy his wife, who held the same of Sir John de Mohun as of his castle of Dunster.—This Sir Ralph married Annora, daughter of Sir John de Membury, by whom he had issue two sons, Ralph, and John, parson of Brompton-Ralph, and several daughters.

Ralph Fitz-Urse (the third) was also a knight, and died in the thirty-fifth of King Edward III. (1360.) In the twentieth of Edward I. he was possessed of the whole of the manor of Brompton-Ralph, and presented his brother John, in the sixteenth of Edward II. to the living of that place. By Maud his wife he had two daughters, his co-heiresses, the elder of whom, Maud, was married to Sir Hugh Durborough, knt. of Heathfield; and the other to Fulford, of Fulford, in Devonshire.

In the partition of the estates of the family of Fitz-Urse, between the two co-heiresses, the manor of Withycombe was assigned to Maud, the wife of Sir Hugh Durborough. Their issue was Ralph Durborough, and James, who resided at Heathfield; the latter married Alice, daughter of John Bath, by whom he had issue John Durborough, of Heathfield, who died without issue in the first of Henry V. (1412.)

Ralph Durborough, the eldest son, succeeded on his

father's death to the manor of Withycombe, and by his wife, Joan, daughter of John St. Barbe, had issue two daughters, his co-heiresses, namely, Joan, married to John Courtenay, who died without issue; and Alice, the wife of Alexander Hadley.

Which Alexander Hadley, in right of the said Alice his wife, became possessed of the manor of Withycombe, and transmitted it to his son, John Hadley, who having married Joan, the daughter of Richard Stawel, was father of Richard Hadley. This Richard married Philippa, the daughter of Sir Humphrey Audley, knt. and had issue one son, James, and two daughters, Anne and Jane. James was twice married, first, to Frideswide, the daughter of Charles Matthew, of the county of Glamorgan; his second wife's name was Elizabeth. By his first wife he was father of several children, namely, four sons, Christopher, John, James, and Thomas; and two daughters, Anne and Rachel. Christopher Hadley, his son and heir, was twenty-two years of age in the thirty-first of Henry VIII. and being married, left issue Arthur Hadley, and Margaret. Arthur died without issue in the reign of Philip and Mary, and his sister Margaret, who was married to James Luttrell, esq. succeeded to the estate; which thus passing into the family of Luttrell, of Dunster Castle, has lineally descended to the present possessor.

In Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses* there is an account of the Rev. John Nicolls, who occurs as curate of

Withycombe about the year 1570. This gentleman is said to have been a native of Cowbridge, in Wales, and educated at Brazen-Nose College, Oxford, but left the university without taking a degree. Soon afterward he became curate of Withycombe under the Rev. Mr. Jones, then also vicar of Taunton St. Mary Magdalen, from which he removed to White-Stanton, where he exercised the clerical functions until 1577. About this period he renounced the doctrines of the church of England, and went to Antwerp, from thence to Rheims, and at length to Rome. He then offered his services to the inquisition, was forthwith received into the bosom of the catholic church, and became a member of the English college in that city. He continued there about two years, and under the pretence of going to Rheims returned to England, and being found at Islington, near London, was arrested and sent prisoner to the Tower, where he recanted his Roman Catholic opinions in the presence of the lieutenant, Sir Owen Hopton, and several persons belonging to the court of Queen Elizabeth.

After this he published a book, entitled his "Pilgrimage," and various controversial works, relating to his recantation and religious opinions, which the reader will find fully detailed in Wood, but which have long since "descended to the tomb of all the Capulets." In 1582 he went to France, and was seized and sent to prison at Rouen, in Normandy, where he recanted all that he had formerly written and spoken against the

pope and the catholic clergy. Wood gives him the character of being fickle and inconstant in his religion, and in his disposition and temper, timorous, vain-glorious, and a mere boaster. What became of him after he was released from prison at Rouen, or where he died is not known.¹⁰

¹⁰ Wood's *Athens Oxon.* vol. i. p. 172.

CARHAMPTON.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—VICARAGE.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—MANOR.—DEMESNE TOWN OF THE ANGLO-SAXON KINGS.—DOMESDAY SURVEY.—HAMLETS.—EASTBURY.—ALLER.—MARSHWOOD.—MARSH.—OULE-KNOWLE.—ALLERCOT.—RADHUISH.—ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF TRIAL BY JURY.—ILLUSTRATION OF DOMESDAY BOOK.—THE ORE, A MONEY OF NOMINAL VALUE.

THE parish of Carhampton is situated in the north-eastern point of the hundred to which it gives name. It is bounded on the north by Timberscombe, Minehead, Dunster, and the Bristol Channel; on the east by the hundred of Williton and the Free Manors, and the parish of Withycombe; on the south by Treborough and Luxborough, and on the west by Cutcombe and Timberscombe. It is supposed to have derived its name from *Carantacus*, a British saint, the son of Keredic,¹¹

¹¹ The monkish legends inform us that this Keredic had many children, of whom the above-named Carantacus or Carantac, discovered at a very early age an uncommon disposition to piety and goodness. That when his father, harassed with troubles and worn out with years, and no longer able to sustain the weight of government, proposed to resign to him the regency of the province, he declined the honour, and preferred a pilgrim's staff to a prince's sceptre.—Vide Jo. TIMMOUTH *ap. CAPGRAVE*, in *Carantaco*.—LELAND's *Itin.* vol. ii. p. 101.

prince of the province of Cardigan, who emigrated from his native land to this place, where he settled, and built an oratory, and spent his time in prayer and praise to God. Collinson, in his *History of Somerset*,¹² seems to throw some doubt upon this statement; "that such a person," he observes, "might have retired hither, and erected a small oratory, is not altogether improbable; but what Leland says, viz. that in his time there existed a chapel of that saint, which sometime was the parish-church, cannot so easily be reconciled." There are, however, reasons for believing that Leland's statement is correct, for he wrote from actual observation, and his account is corroborated by the discovery, within a few years past, of a number of stones and cement which have been dug up in an orchard and garden belonging to the vicarage house, about two hundred yards eastward of the present church-yard; this is supposed to have been the site of the ancient chapel; many human bones were found among the ruins, as have been many more in some parts of the vicarage orchard and garden, and also in an adjoining orchard, belonging to Eastbury Farm, where, in cutting a deep drain, the workmen came across many human skeletons, all lying as if they had been decently buried, and no longer ago than last year (1828) and since this work was begun, some labourers employed in new-laying out the vicarage gardens for the Rev. William Bere, the curate, found some more

¹² Vol. ii. p. 2.

skeletons ; with these as well as with those dug up in Eastbury orchard, there were found other human bones, which, no doubt, had belonged to bodies that had been buried before those to which the skeletons belonged, had been taken out in making the last graves, and again thrown in with the earth in filling them up.

From a survey of this parish made in 1821, it was found to contain five thousand one hundred and ninety-three acres ; of which three hundred and forty-eight acres are in Dunster Park, eighty-two acres in Dunster Lawn, five hundred and seventy-nine acres in heaths and commons, four hundred and fifty-five acres in timber, wood, and coppice, and the rest in arable, meadow, orchard, and pasture ; of which J. F. Luttrell, esq. is the proprietor of three thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine acres. This, in an agricultural point of view, is by far the richest and finest parish in the whole hundred ; it is divided into three parts, entirely separated from each other, namely, Carhampton Lower-Side, Radhuish, (here written Rodhuish) and a tract lying between Dunster and Timberscombe, which with Radhuish is called Carhampton Higher-Side. The first contains the village of Carhampton, through which runs the turnpike road from Taunton to Dunster and Minehead ; from which latter place it is distant about three miles and a half, as it is nearly one mile and a half from the former. The soil is either alluvial earth, or what is here called red-stone rush, under which lies red gravel or a sort of marle, which becomes harder and

mixed with stones the deeper we descend ; the greater part of the former, and some of the latter, is either rich pasture or excellent watered meadows; the best arable is the stone rush, it is easy and free to work, and yields, if well managed, excellent crops of all kinds of grain and pulse, equal in quality to any grown in the kingdom. There is no lime rock worked here, but there is one in the park which appears to have been worked, but it must have been a long time ago from the appearance of the timber growing about it; the farmers therefore import stones from Wales, and here burn them into lime, with which they manure their lands. The orchards are very fine, and at this moment loaded with fruit. In that part of Dunster Park which is in this parish there is an ancient encampment, in fine preservation ; it is of an octagonal shape, with a double rampart and deep fosse; the rampart is formed of stones, and appears in some places as if it had been terraced like stairs. Two small ramparts run out to the eastward, which appear to have been the entrance to the principal work. The ditch is quite filled up in two places, with the ruins of part of the rampart, which gives it the appearance of having been carried by assault by an attacking enemy. There is an outwork formed of a single rampart, facing the entrance, at about the distance of two hundred yards from it. There is a fine view of the channel, and the coast of Wales on the north, the camp overlooking a deep glen on the south and west, which runs into the vale of Avill, besides

commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country.

Besides the lord of the manor the following are freeholders in this parish:—

Earl of Egremont; Sir T. D. Acland; Sir John Trevelyan; Robert Hole, esq. of Harewood; Robert Hole, esq. of Timberscombe; James Hole, esq.; Charles Beague, esq.; Rev. T. S. Escott; Rev. Bickham Escott; Miss M. Newton; Miss Honor Kent; Rev. George B. Warren; Mr. James Taylor; Mr. Henry Leigh; Mr. Phelps; the heirs of Hugh Blackwell and their assigns; and Mr. John Lewis.

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Dunster, and is valued in the king's books at £11 8s. It is discharged from the payment of tenths, the clear yearly value having been certified at £48 13s. 10½d. In 1292, this church was valued at four marks and a half, and was appropriated to the priory of Bath.

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* there are the following particulars relating to this living:—

1535. Rectory of Carhampton, prior and convent of Bath, propr.

Annual value of the predial tithes, and

other casualties 14 6 8

Out of which there is an an-

nual pension paid to the

prior and convent of Bath 8 10 0

And an annual pension to the

cathedral church of Wells 5 0 0

1535. Vicarage of Carhampton, Henry Clarke, Vicar.

Annual value of the demesne or glebe

lands	0	10	0
Tithes of wool and lamb	4	10	0
Predial tithes	5	0	0
Oblations and other casualties	1	8	0
	<hr/>		
	£11	8	0

The Rev. W. Bere is the present incumbent. The right of presentation and the impropriate great tithes, excepting those of Oule-Knowle, and Robert Hole, esq. of Timberscombe's property, belong to John Fownes Luttrell, esq. by purchase from Sir James Langham, bart. In a survey made of the parish in 1823, for the purpose of equalizing the poors' rate, the sum of £180 3s. 9d. is given as the net annual value of the tithes and glebe.

VICARS OF CARHAMPTON.

1634. Peter Poole.

1677. William Troyte.

1691. John Mayo.

1715. Charles Mayo.

1716. William Lovelace.

1754. Samuel Squires.

—— Richard Abraham.

—— William Bere.

The church stands in the centre of the village, and is dedicated to St. John the Baptist; it consists of a nave, south aisle, and chancel; the nave is divided from the latter by a handsome screen. The king's arms bear the date of 1660, the year of the Restoration. At the west end there is a low stone tower, on the top of which is a frame of wood whose sides are boarded up: it is covered with tiles. Tradition says that the tower was once all of stone, but that a part was taken down and the present top substituted for it.

In the church-yard there are the remains of a stone cross with three rows of steps; the shaft is broken.

There is a monument in the south-aisle to the memory of Sarah Trevelyan, of Knoll, relict of Thomas, eldest son of Hugh Trevelyan, of Yarnscombe, in the county of Devon, esq. who died November 26, 1667, aged 37.

Near this monument there are some stones on the floor bearing the arms of the Trevelyan family, with some writing in latin which is now illegible; and on another broken stone the following: "Samuel Gray, a citizen of London, where he lived and died, in the year of our LORD GOD 1631." And in the nave another with this: "Here lies the body of John Knight, surgeon, who was burryd the 18th of Sep. 1733, aged 23." And in the chancel one "To the memory of Elizabeth Ann, wife of William Lovelace, vicar, and daughter to John Mayo, late vicar, who departed this life the 7th day of Feb. 1724, aged 33. Nulli pietate secunda;" and

"Here lies the body of the Rev. William Lovelace, vicar of this church, who dy'd the 29 Dec. 1754, in the 64th year of his age."

The register begins in 1634; from 1652 to 1677 it is lost; the rest is in good preservation and appears to have been well kept. It records "that in 1741, 14 persons died here of the small pox, and in 1784, 14 more died of a malignant fever." In it is entered the burial of the bodies of a child, and a drowned sailor found on the sea shore. And it contains the following: "Bury'd Grace Blackwell—Obiit Felis morsu rabiosæ;" that is, died from the bite of a mad cat."

Leland¹³ says "there lieth one Elizabeth, wife to one of the Luttrells, before the high altar, under a plain stone." This stone is, however, not in Carhampton church, but in the old part of that of Dunster. The paragraph in the Itinerary seems to have been misplaced by the transcriber.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor was £115, and in 1785, £198. In 1776, there was a work-house here, which would accommodate thirty persons. In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £465. In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, as assessed to the property tax, was £5429. In 1818, the county rate was £5 13s. 1½d. In the year ending at

¹³ Itinerary vol. II. p. 101.

lady-day, 1827, the money paid for the county rate was £57 15s. 10d.; and for and to the poor, £478 16s. 6½d.

In 1801, the resident population of this parish was 601.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Carhampton stands thus:—

Houses inhabited	104
Uninhabited	0
Building	0
Families	123
Of whom were employed	
In agriculture	86
In trade	24
All others	13
Persons 587 :—viz.	
Males	304
Females	283
Decrease in 20 years	14

In 1815, there were ninety-three poor in this parish.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons in 1818, the Rev. John Southwood stated that in Carhampton there is an endowed school for eight boys, selected from this and the adjoining villages of Droxford, Namstoke, and Exton, and that there is here no other school. The poorer classes are very desirous of having their children educated.¹⁴

¹⁴ I have copied this statement from the Parliamentary Reports relating to the Education of the Poor; but, on inquiry at Carhampton, I find that there is

The town of Carhampton was one of the demesne towns of the Anglo-Saxon kings, as is proved from Domesday Book, and also from King Alfred's will. "First I give," says the king in his will, "to Edward my eldest son, the land at *Carhamtune*, and at *Cylfantune*, and at *Burnhamme*, and at *Wedmor*," &c.—Fifteen towns in the county of Somerset, which had been the ancient demesne of the Anglo-Saxon kings, are mentioned in Domesday Book as having belonged to Edward the Confessor, of which Carhampton is one. History traces some of these towns to the possession of Ina, king of the West-Saxons; others to the great Alfred, and others to Athelstan. All of them had been exempt, for this reason, from the tax called *Dane Geld*, because, if they had been assessed, it would only have been paying with one hand what would have been received with the other. The arable lands of these manors were therefore never hidated, and the survey constantly expresses that it is not known what number of hides were contained in them.¹⁵

In Domesday Book the manor of Carhampton is described conjointly with Williton and Cannington, and was then in the king's hands, being ancient demesne of the crown.

not, nor ever was, any school of this description. The report probably belongs to some other parish, and has been misplaced by those who had the care of the arrangement of those reports. The then curate of Carhampton was not called "John Southwood," but John Southcombe.—J. S.

¹⁵ See King Alfred's will, London, 1828, 8vo.—Domesday Book, vol. i. under Somerset, Terra Regis.

"The king holds WILLITON, CANNINGTON, and CARHAMPTON. King Edward held them. They never were assessed to the geld, neither is it known what number of hides there are. The arable land is sufficient for one hundred ploughs. There are eleven ploughs and a half in the demesne, and eleven bondmen; and thirty coliberti and thirty-eight villans, and fifty bordars, who have thirty-seven ploughs and a half.

"There are two mills which render five shillings; one hundred and four acres of meadow; a pasture five miles in length and three miles in breadth; a wood four miles long, and two miles and a half broad.

"These manors render 100 pounds and 116 shillings and 16 pence half-penny,¹⁶ of 20 in the ore.

"In the time of King Edward they rendered the firm of one night."

'The Exeter Domesday'¹⁷ adds that "in these manors the king has two horses, eleven hogs, and three hundred sheep."

There is a second entry in the same record relating to the church of this village:—

"In the church of CARENTONE lies one hide and a half of land. There is in demesne one plough and a half,¹⁸ with a priest, and one villan and eight bordars.

¹⁶ The Exchequer Domesday calls this *sixteen*-pence half-penny, but the Exon Domesday, *six*-pence half-penny.

¹⁷ Fo. 81.

¹⁸ In Dr. Henshall's translation of part of Domesday Book, the author says that the lord's plough was drawn by four oxen, and the plough of the villan

There are forty acres of pasture, and fifteen acres of wood. It is worth twenty shillings.¹⁹

From this description, the vicar of Carhampton is entitled to a manor distinct from that above-mentioned.

Soon after this the Conqueror gave the manor of Carhampton to William de Mohun, one of his followers, on whom he had conferred the great barony of Dunster, and divers other possessions, which were alienated from this family in the reign of Edward III. to the family of Luttrell, in which it has invariably continued to the present time.

By an inquisition taken in the twenty-eighth of Edward III. (1354) Robert Homond, of Dunster, was found to hold at his death, twenty-four acres of land in Carhampton and Dunster.²⁰

And by another inquisition in the thirty-sixth of Edward III. William Taillour and Thomas de Ryvers were found to hold twenty-four acres of land in Carhampton and Dunster, [probably the same as the last-mentioned.]²¹

tenants by two; therefore the term *half a plough*, which frequently occurs in the survey, means that only half the usual number of oxen were employed in the plough.—Dr. HENSHALL's *Kent*, &c. p. 5.

I am, however, inclined to think, that wherever *half a plough* is mentioned in *Domesday Book*, the land was only half sufficient for one plough; or, as in the instance before us, that the land was more than sufficient for one plough, and only half enough for another.—J. S.

¹⁹ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 91. b. col. 1.

²⁰ Cal. Inq. p. m. vol. ii. p. 189. No. 23.

²¹ Cal. Inq. p. m. vol. ii. p. 258. No. 52.

In the thirteenth of Richard II. there is among the inquisitions an appraisement of the lands of this William Taillour, which states that he held annual rents amounting to eight pounds in Stoke-Gomer and Preston; the manor of Almandeworth; five marks rent in Little Quantock, in the parish of Enmore; one burgage, with a garden, two dovecots, and seventeen acres of land in Dunster, and twenty shillings rent arising out of divers tenements in Carhampton, Boghynescombe, and Crawedon.²²

By an inquisition in the forty-seventh of Edward III. Robert Bailiff, of Dunster, was found to hold one messuage and thirty acres of land in Carhampton.²³

And by an inquisition in the nineteenth of Henry VI. Robert Ryvers was found to hold two messuages, one pigeon-house, eighty acres of land, and three acres of meadow, in Carhampton, and pasture for six cows and one bull in all the demesne lands of the demesne of Dunster, called Waterletes there, *post blada messa*, &c. and also fifteen messuages, one pigeon-house, twenty-three acres of land, one acre and a half of meadow, and one acre and a half of moor, and four annual rents in Dunster; also eighteen acres of land, three acres of meadow, and two acres of alders, in Willaller; also one penny annual rent issuing out of Northcombe, in the parish of Cutcombe; and likewise one messuage, fifty

²² Cal. Inq. p. m. vol. iii. p. 121. No. 103.

²³ Cal. Inq. p. m. vol. ii. p. 331. No. 77.

acres of land, and one virgate of meadow, in Over-Stowey.²⁴

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth there were some proceedings in chancery in which William Everwoode (query Everard) was plaintiff, and John Aver, alias Griffith, defendant, on the subject of some deeds relating to a barton or capital messuage and land in the parish of Carhampton, late the estate of the plaintiff's father.²⁵

MARSHWOOD.

Marshwood is an ancient manor-house in Carhampton Lower-Side. It was once the residence of some of the Luttrells, and had a fine park belonging to it, which was destroyed about eighty years since. It is now a farm-house.

MARSH.

Marsh is an ancient manor-house in Carhampton Lower-Side, and lies about a mile north of Dunster. It is now a farm-house, occupied by a descendant of the Everards of Aller.

EASTBURY.

The manor of Eastbury in Carhampton Lower-Side,

²⁴ Cal. Inq. p. m. 19 Hen. VI. No. 31.

²⁵ Calendar, p. 277. No. 56.

I consider to be the same which is described in Domesday Book under the name of "Tetesberge," and was then held by William de Mohun and his under tenant, Hugh.

"Hugh holds of William de Mohun TETESBERGE. Six Thanes held it in the time of King Edward; when it was assessed to the geld for two hides. The arable land is sufficient for four ploughs. There is in the demesne one plough and three bondmen; and six villans and twelve bordars have three ploughs and a half. There are six acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, ten acres of moor, and two acres of wood. It was and is now worth forty shillings."²⁶

In the Exeter Domesday it is said that six Thanes held this manor equally, (*pariter*) and could chuse what lord they pleased. Hugh held three virgates and one plough in demesne, and the villan tenants one hide and one virgate. He had here three bullocks and one hog.²⁷

The next account we have of this manor is that it was the property of the ancient family of *Bretesche* or *Britashe*, of Thrubwell, in this county. This family is said to have proceeded originally from a younger branch of the ancient counts of Guisnes, in Flanders; but they probably derived their English appellation from a small manor in the parish of Street, near Glastonbury, called *Brutesayshe*, where once they had the chief of their possessions. In the twenty-fourth of

²⁶ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 95. b. col. 1.

²⁷ Exon. D. fo. 334.

Henry II. (1178) Richard de Bretesche, then lord of that manor, was fined ten marks for trespasses committed by him in the king's forests. He died in the tenth of Richard I. (1198) leaving issue,

John de Bretesche, his son and heir, who married Margaret, widow of Warine de Ralegh, of Nettlecombe, and daughter of Ralph, Lord Boteler, of Overley. In the third of Henry III. (1219) he is found entering into a composition with Adam Gianne and Anne his wife, concerning certain lands in Crewkerne, part of the dowry of the said Margaret from her first husband. In the same reign he was witness to a charter of Richard earl of Cornwall, the king's brother, whereby that earl granted liberties throughout his whole estate in Cornwall to the abbot and monks of Cleeve, in this county.

In the twenty-third year of the same reign (1238) he exchanged his right of common in Heygrove, with the master of St. John's hospital in Redcliffe, for one yard-land in Thrubwell, formerly held by Walter Fitz-Norman, and for half a yard-land which the said John held of the gift of Elias Fitz-William, agreeing to pay ten shillings and sixpence to the said master, in lieu of all services due for the said lands. In the twenty-seventh of the same reign, (1243) he is recorded for non-appearance before the justices itinerant, in the hundreds of Chew, Wellow, Portbury, Hareclive, and Chewton, in all which hundreds he possessed estates. Not long after this he occurs as witness to a deed of Geoffrey de Craucombe, whereby the latter granted his

manor of Crocombe, in this county, to the church of the blessed Virgin Mary, of Studley, in the county of Oxford.

To him succeeded *John de Bretesche*, his son and heir, lord of the manor of Thrubwell, which he held of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, by the service of half a knight's fee. The profits of the court were valued at two shillings. This John, in the forty-second of Henry III. (1258) presented William de Sodden to William Briton, chief justice of the forest, to be his wood-ward of the forest of Winford, who was admitted accordingly. In the forty-seventh of the same reign (1263) he joined with his wife Engeretta in a grant to William Bozun and his heirs, of one messuage and three ferlings of arable land in Heathfield, in this county, as also two ferlings and a tenement in Ford; reserving an acknowledgment of two barbed arrows, or in lieu thereof one penny, to be paid annually at Easter. He died in the fifteenth of Edward I.²⁸ (1287) leaving issue one sole daughter and heiress, Joan, married to Roger, Lord Perceval, ancestor to the present earl of Egmont. The said John de Bretesche, at the time of his death, was seized of the manor of Eastbury in Carhampton, of the manor of Butcombe, and of lands in Thrubwell, which he held by the service of half a knight's fee, all which descended to the said Joan, then of the age of sixteen years, and her husband doing his

²⁸ Inq. p. m. 15 Edw. I. No. 20.—Calendar, vol. i. p. 93.

homage had livery of the lands of her inheritance. The family of Bretesche bore for their arms, *Sable*, a lion rampant, *Argent*, double-queued, crowned *Or*.

The Percevals continued in possession of the manor of Eastbury for many successive generations; and it was not severed from that house till about the beginning of the last century, when it passed to the Withycombes of Briddicot, and afterward to the Escotts of Sandell Farm, and by marriage to Mr. R. Leigh, of whom it was purchased by the present John Fownes Luttrell, esq.

ALLER.

Aller, adjoining Dunster Park, another ancient manor in Carhampton Lower-Side, formerly the property and residence of the Everards, a family, says Leland, set up by the Mohuns. The Everards held Aller of the Mohuns of Dunster Castle, by the tenure of Castle-Guard.²⁹

²⁹ The tenure by castle-guard, or ward, was required to be *certain*, and it was not sufficient to be in general words, *to defend the castle*; but it was required to be to defend the gates, a tower, a door, a bridge, or some other *certain part* of the castle. On this account we frequently find stone seats in large niches in the thickness of the wall at the entrance, for those who by military tenure kept castle-guard, persons who held lands subject to the tenure by castle-guard, frequently commuted the service by a rent charged upon and payable out of the estate. The great charter of Henry III. ordered that "no constable shall distrain any knight for to give money for keeping of his castle, if he himself will do it in his proper person, or cause it to be done by another sufficient man, if he may not do it himself, for a reasonable cause. And if we do lead or send him in an army, he shall be free from

It is now the property of Miss Mary Newton, of Radhuish, one of whose ancestors became possessed of a moiety of this estate by marrying one of the daughters of the last Everard of this place. The other moiety was obtained by purchase from Mr. Newton, father of the Rev. W. Newton, the present rector of Old Cleeve, whose great-grandfather married another daughter of the same Everard. There was a third daughter married to a Mr. Case, but who does not appear to have had any part of the property.

OULE-KNOWLE.

The other division of this parish, which lies west of Dunster, is mostly red stone rush and white rag; most of the former is in the vale of Avill, and lies upon red rock. In it is Knowle, a part of the manor of Avill, and Croydon, two other small farms.

Knowle house was built about thirty years since by the late Michael Hole, esq. the father of the present proprietor. It is situated in a lawn at the foot of two knolls, or small hills, which lie under the south-side of Grabhurst, and shelter it from the north wind. The river which we described under Cutcombe, as coming from Dunkery, swelled by many other streams, passes

castle-ward, for the time that he shall be with us in fee in our host, for the which he hath done service in our wars."

Lands were frequently let out to tenants, on condition that the grantee did castle-guard when called upon, or be amerced in a certain sum.

before it, and here swarms with trout. The knolls at the back of the house are crowned with timber, among which are some very fine old oaks, with very large spreading heads. James Hole, esq. the present owner, who resides here, has very much improved the appearance of the house and lawn, which, with the woody knolls and well-cultivated grounds, is a very pleasing object in the natural landscape which the traveller enjoys in going along the turnpike-road between Dunster and Timberscombe.

In Domesday Book the manor of Knowle is thus described:—

“Roger holds of William de Mohun ERNOLE. Paulinus held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for three ploughs. There is in the demesne one plough and a half, and one bondman; four villans and one bordar have one plough. There is a coppice wood (*silvæ minutæ*) one mile in length and half a mile in breadth. It was formerly worth five shillings, now it is worth twenty-five shillings.³⁰

The Exeter Domesday calls this manor HERNOLE, and states that Roger has here three virgates and one plough and a half in his demesne; and that the villan tenants have one virgate and one plough. Roger has here seven wild horses, (*equus sylvestres*)³¹ twenty

³⁰ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 96.

³¹ Kelham (D. B. illustrated) translates these words “brood mares, turned out into the woods.”

bullocks, sixteen hogs, and one hundred and twenty sheep.²²

In the reigns of Edward II. and III. the manor of Oule-Knowle was the property and residence of the family of Tort. In the first of Edward III. Laurence de Tort, whose sister and heiress Joan had married Simon de Ralegh, of Nettlecombe, levied a fine, by which the whole estates of that family, consisting of the manors of Oule-Knowle, Cutcombe, (now called Cutcombe-Ralegh,) Langham-Tort, Bordesley, and Upton, were granted to Simon, a younger son of the said Simon de Ralegh by his wife Joan de Tort.

In the fourth of Edward III. William Everard held of John de Mohun the hamlets of Oule-Knowle, Linch, and Langham, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.

The manor was afterward the property of the Trevelyan family, some of whom formerly resided here. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth they were parties in a chancery-suit which ultimately terminated in their favour, but was sold before a master in chancery by a decree of that court, in the reign of William and Mary, and bought by one of the Orchards, of Hartland, in Devonshire, of whom it was purchased by one of Mr. Hole's ancestors, and has been in the possession of his family since 1711.

That part of the manor of Avill which is in this

²² Exon. D. fo. 339.

division of the parish is in the valley to which it gives name; the other parts of this manor are in Dunster and Timberscombe: but here, at a farm-house called Kitswall, Mr. John Day, of Wellington, Sir T. D. Acland's steward, occasionally holds a court-baron. This house and farm has been in the possession of the family of the present occupier, Mr. B. Escott, (a branch of the Escott family, of Escott Farm and Sandhill, in Withycombe) either as leaseholders for lives, or rack-renters, for the greater part of two centuries. Croydon farm and house and three other farms lie from one to two miles south from the vale of Avill, from which it is divided by a part of Timberscombe. Croydon House is an ancient brick one; it is wainscoted all through, and formerly had two wings and detached offices, but since it was converted into a farm-house one of the wings has been pulled down. It formerly belonged to a family of the name of Hall, the last of whom, who resided here, was a Rev. — Hall, who at his death gave it to the Clarkes,³³ of Bridwell House, near Uffculm, Devon, by whom it was sold about three years since to Robert Hole, of Harewood, esq. the present

³³ The family of Clarke appears to have been settled above two hundred years at Bridwell, in the county of Devon, late the seat of Richard Hall Clarke, esq. who died in 1821, leaving a son, John Were Clarke, esq. then of Burrington, near Plymouth, who married in 1810, Frances, sister of Sir Henry Carew, bart. Mr. Were Clarke is descended from the Weres of Halberton, on the female side. The arms of Clarke are *Argent*, on a bend *Gules*, between three pallets, as many swans, proper. These arms are on a monument in Halberton Church.—Lysons's Devon, part i. p. cxli.

owner. Here is a wood of about fourteen acres, in which are some of the largest and finest beech trees in the hundred, perhaps in the county.

Allercot farm lies south of Croydon; here is a considerable body of lime rock, and a quarry in full work. This was one of those examined by Mr. Horner, an account of which is given in the third volume of the Transactions of the Geological Society, and from which we shall give some extracts at the end of this volume. The stream that comes from near Beech Tree, in Luxborough, passes through Allercot and Croydon farms. The soil of these and the other two is white rag upon grauwaske slate.

RADHUIISH

Is an ancient hamlet about two miles south-east of the church; it is divided from Carhampton Lower Side, by the parish of Withycombe. Here is a chapel in which divine service used to be performed on the first Sunday in every month, by the vicar of Carhampton, on which day there was no service in the parish church, but by a very proper order of the present diocesan, and for which he has the thanks of the parishioners, divine service is now performed in both places once a day on every sabbath. This chapel is kept in repair by a rate on the lands of Radhuish only. It has lately been thoroughly repaired, or rather almost entirely rebuilt. The lands of Radhuish are good, but not equal to those

of the Lower-Side. The soil is mostly stone rush, or white rag, both generally lying upon a bastard slate. Every farmer here works a lime rock; all of them are different varieties of a grey lime-stone, found among the grauwacke slate of this hundred. At a short distance from the chapel is Escott Farm, a long time the residence of the principal branch of the Escott family, one of whom, Richard Escott, esq. was a benefactor to this hamlet and chapel. It is now the property of the Rev. Bickham Escott, eldest son of the Rev. Thomas Sweet Escott, of Hartrow House. A small stream that rises a little above the village of Radhuish, passes through it, and after driving a mill in Escott wood, it runs into the hundred of Williton and the Free Manors, and is joined by the stream that comes from Withycombe; it then, for some distance, divides the hundred we are treating of from the one we have just mentioned, and finally falls into the sea at Blue Anchor: it abounds with fine trout and eels. The stream which we described in our account of the parish of Luxborough, as running through Pool Town, skirts the southern bounds of Radhuish for some distance, and then passes into it, turns a mill, and severs from the other part a wood of nearly a hundred acres, called "Langridge Wood." The ground on which this wood grows is the terminating part of a lateral branch of the highland of Treborough, and is, as its names denotes, a "Long Ridge." The timber that grew here, and which was very fine, was sold about ten

years since by the present owner, J. F. Luttrell, esq. To haul it out of the wood it was necessary to repair or make roads, and a small cairn on the very top of the ridge, offered the supply of its moss-grown heap of stones, which was immediately laid hold of; on removing them the workmen came to a large stone of irregular shape, which they moved on one side and uncovered a sepulchre, seven feet six inches long, two feet six inches wide, and three feet deep, formed by five stones all of them together, with the covering one of the same kind as the slate of the neighbouring quarry in Treborough, mentioned in our account of that parish; the interstices where the stones did not exactly meet were filled up with other small stones, so very neatly and closely, without cement, as to prevent the intrusion of small insects. Very much to the disappointment of the workmen, who expected to have found some hidden treasure, it proved to contain the skeleton of a human being, perhaps, from its proximity to Drucombe, that of some druid. The bones were removed to the neighbouring churchyard of Treborough and re-interred, and the place they had so long tenanted was railed in, and still remains to be seen in almost as perfect a state as the day in which it was first formed. Surely no man can look upon such a monument as this, no doubt that of some man great and illustrious in his day and generation, but now whose time of existence on earth even the most learned antiquary can only guess, without confessing how vain and perishable are all other monu-

ments except those which history erects in her storied pages. "The village of Radhuish," says Mr. Collinson, "seems to have been of ancient foundation, the name being composed of the Saxon *Rod*, signifying a rood or cross, and the Belgic word *Huys*, a dwelling. This place is called in Domesday Book *RADEHEWIS*."

Mr. Collinson is greatly mistaken in his etymology of the name of this hamlet. The meaning of it is "the residence or dwelling-place of the radman, or judge, or principal counsellor of the hundred," and it is derived first, from *Ræd*, or *Rad*, which comes from the Franco-Theotisc *Raada*; Teutonic *Raht*; Anglo-Saxon *Ræd*, the same as the Latin *Consilium*, deliberation, council, advice; Belgic and Teutonic *Reden*, the same as the Latin *Loqui*, to speak, to discourse, to report, to declare;—and secondly, *Huish*, a dwelling-place, from the Belgic *Huys*, the same as the Latin *Domus*, and the English *House*.³⁴

As these *Radmen* were the original of our present jurors and juries, the reader will probably not be displeased with a few remarks upon them and their ancient office.

Among the Anglo-Saxons the *Ræd-boran*, *Lahmen*,³⁵

³⁴ The word *House*, for a dwelling-place, seems to have run through nearly all the European languages, ancient and modern;—thus in the Anglo-Saxon we have *Hus*; in the Gothic, *Hus*; in the Danish and Swedish, *Huus*; in the German, *Hause*; Icelandic, *Hus* and *Huus*; Sclavonic, *Hieha*; Hungarian, *Has*; Finn, *Honch*; Lapland, *Honeh*; and in the Cantabrian or Basque language, *Echea* and *Eiche*.

³⁵ In the ancient language of Sweden this word was written *Leyman*. In

or *lawyers*,³⁶ were assistants to the alderman in the county court. These persons were brought up in the study of the written law, and after they had passed an examination as to the knowledge of their profession, some of them were appointed assessors to the aldermen, shire-reeves, and hundredaries, while others acted as advocates and pleaders.³⁶ In ancient times, when few people had the knowledge of letters, three of these *Lahmen* were thought sufficient to assist at the judgments of the county court; but as learning increased, their number was at first augmented to seven, and afterwards to twelve.³⁷ Here we have the origin of our jurymen and juries. These assessors took a solemn oath faithfully to perform all the duties of their office, and neither suffer an innocent man to be condemned, nor an offender to escape.³⁸ Some have attributed the institution of *Lahmen*, as assessors, to Alfred the Great, but there is sufficient evidence of their higher antiquity.³⁹

The Lagman had an officer who assisted him in his

the Icelandic *Lagmadr*, *judex provincialis summæ apud veteres dignitationis, quippe qui non judex tantum erat in Conventibus publicis, sed etiam coram Rege tribunitiam potestatem exercuit.*—*HRÆ voc. Lag.*

The president of the court of justice in the Orkney Islands was formerly called the *Lagman*.—See BARRY's Orkney, p. 217.

³⁶ Wilkins, *Leg. Sax.* p. 205.

³⁶ Hicessii *Dissert. Epist.* p. 34.

³⁷ Du Cange *Gloss.* and Wilkins's *Leg.* ut *supra*.

³⁸ *Ibid.* p. 177.

³⁹ See Henry's *Hist. Brit.* vol. ii. quarto, p. 246.

duties, who was called the *Lagraetman*. "As the chief judge had a council consisting of several members called *Raddmen* or counsellors, so the inferior ones, the *Lagmen*, had their council also, composed of members denominated *Lagraetmen*,⁴⁰ or Law-right-men, who were a kind of constables for the execution of justice in their respective islands."⁴¹ These are our present by-law-men.

The jury appears to have been an institution of progressive growth, and its principle may be traced to the earliest Anglo-Saxon times. One of the judicial customs of the Saxons was, that a man might be cleared after being accused of certain crimes, if an appointed number of lawful persons came forward and swore that they believed him innocent of the allegation against him. These men were literally jurors, *Juratores*, more properly *Compurgators*, who swore to a *veredictum*; who so far determined the facts of the case, as to acquit the person in whose favour they swore. [This is evidently the principle upon which our present grand jury is founded.] Such an oath, and such an acquittal, is a jury in its earliest and rudest shape, and it is remarkable

⁴⁰ The word *Lagraetmen* is deduced from the Sul-Gothic *lag*, law, and *raett*, right; men whose business it was to see that justice was done according to law.—JAMIESON'S Dict. voc. *Lagraetman*.

The *Senatus Consultum de Monticulis Wallie*, is in the preface expressed to be made with the advice and consent of the English *Witas*, and the *Red-boran* of Wales, that is, Counsellors, from *Red*, counsel, and *Boran*, born; that is, a person born with the privilege of being a Thane, or counsellor to the king, similar to our hereditary nobility.—GUARDON'S Hist. of Parl. vol. p. 36.

⁴¹ Barry's *Orkney*, p. 217.

that for accusations of any consequence among the Saxons of the continent, twelve jurors, *juratores*, were the number required for an acquittal. Thus, as we have already observed, in the earliest times, when few people had the knowledge of letters, three lawful persons were thought sufficient to assist at the judgments of the sheriff's tourn; but as learning increased, their number was at first augmented to seven, and afterward to twelve. Similar customs may be observed in the laws of the continental Angli and Frisiones, though sometimes the number of the jury or *juratores* varied according to the magnitude of the charge against the accused; every number being appointed, from three to forty-eight. In the laws of the Ripuarii, we find that in certain cases the oaths of even seventy-two persons were necessary to the acquittal of the accused. It is obvious, from their numbers, that these persons could not have been witnesses to the facts alleged. They could only be those, who, after hearing and weighing the facts of the case, proffered their deliberate oaths that the accused person was innocent of the charge; or in the language of the modern courts of Scotland, that the charge was not proven. The curious reader will find in Turner's History of the Anglo-Saxons,⁴² some further elucidations of this interesting subject of the early English History.

The great Alfred was assiduous in protecting the

⁴² Vol. iii. p. 591.

independence, the purity, and the rights of jurymen. He punished capitally some judges for deciding criminal cases by an arbitrary violation of the right of jury.

"He hanged Cadwine, because he condemned Hachwy to death without the assent of all the jurors, in a case where he put himself upon the jury of twelve men, and because Cadwine removed three who wished to save him against the nine, for three others into whose jury this Hachwy did not put himself."

"He hanged Markes, because he adjudged During to death, by twelve men not sworn."

"He hanged Freeberne, because he adjudged Harpin to death when the jurors were in doubt about their verdict; for when in doubt, we ought rather to save than condemn."⁴³

In the twenty-ninth chapter of Magna Charta there is an indirect acknowledgment of the jury, which is implied in the words "nor will we condemn him (or deal with him) but *by lawful judgment of his peers* ; the whole chapter stands thus :—

"No freeman shall be taken or imprisoned, or be disseized of his freehold, or liberties, or free customs, or be outlawed, or exiled, or any otherwise destroyed; nor will we pass upon him, nor condemn him, but *by lawful judgment of his peers*, or by the law of the land. We will sell to no man, we will neither deny nor defer to any man either justice or right."

⁴³ *Miroir des Justices*, p. 296—298. *Turner's Hist. of the Anglo-Sax.* vol. ii. p. 308, 309.

The Hon. Daines Barrington, in his *Observations on Magna Charta*,⁴⁴ says that it is clear by the *Regiam Majestatem*, which in most particulars is the same with our *Glanville*, that the trial by jury was in use in Scotland in civil matters so early as David I. who began his reign in 1124. "When the *twelve royal men* compeer and pass upon the assize, they shall proceed and try quhilk of the parties, the persewer or the defeudant, hath best richt to the londs claimed."⁴⁵

It appears from Olaus Wormius,⁴⁶ that the trial by twelve men was first introduced into Denmark by Regnerus, surnamed Lodbrog, who began to reign in the year 820; from whom King Ethelred is said to have borrowed this institution; they are called in the Danish law *Sandemæn*, which is rendered *Viri veraces*.⁴⁷—Pontoppidan says "Desiit apud nos duo decim virale hoc iudicium, remanentibus tamen ejusdem vestigiis." The material difference between these twelve judges and an English jury, consists in this; that the English

⁴⁴ *Observat. on the more ancient Statutes*, edit. 1796, p. 18.

⁴⁵ *Regiam Majestatem*, translated by Skene, b. i. ch. 13.

⁴⁶ *Mon. Dan. lib. i. cap. x. p. 72.*

⁴⁷ *Gesta Danorum extra Daniam*, Hafniæ, 1740.—Stiernhook gives us this account of the term *Sandeman* in the old Swedish and Gothic laws, which he says had the *Nembda*, or trial by twelve men:—"Qui quod deputati assent *Nandeman* vocabantur, quod duo decim *Thyman*, quod integræ vitæ, *Sanneman*, quod senes *Oldungar*."—Cap. iv. p. 53.—Holmiæ, 1672, 4to. This trial by the *Nembda*, or jury of twelve, is now disused in Sweden in all cases, where the point can be proved by witnesses, (see *ibid.* p. 59.) and indeed when it prevailed, the unanimity of the jury was not required, which makes the great singularity of this method of deciding controversies in England.

is only impanelled for the decision of a particular cause, whereas these twelve judges in Denmark determine all law suits within the jurisdiction of their court. Mr. Barrington thinks it not improbable that our jury formerly decided all controversies within a certain district, without the assistance of a judge ; as questions were not then so intricate as they are at present ; and we are very much in the dark about their manner of proceeding, till the time of Edward II. when the Year Books begin. It is much to be lamented therefore that we have not a collection of the cases, which Chaucer says, his *Man of Law* carried in his head ;

“ In termes had he case and domys al,
That fro the tyme of King Welyam was fall ; ”

as going further back, they must have necessarily thrown considerable light upon questions of this sort.

The unanimity of the twelve jurors in their verdict must be admitted to be a very singular institution. It would seem that the reason for requiring this, at least in criminal prosecutions, arose from compassion to the prisoner ; against whom if the offence was not proved beyond all possibility of doubt in the most scrupulous juror, it was thought to be erring on the merciful side, that the single *veto* should acquit him. Another reason for this unanimity might possibly have arisen from attainments being frequently brought in ancient times against juries, to which punishment every juror was liable. As each individual, therefore, might be subject to a convic-

tion in such a prosecution, it might be reasonable that every one should have a power of dissenting, and not be concluded by the opinion of others. The first of these reasons may account for the necessary unanimity in criminal suits, and the latter in those of a civil nature, in which cases only the prosecution of attainr took place. Another cause for the unanimity of a jury might possibly arise from their being unwilling that individuals might be obnoxious to the crown, or perhaps parties, if the opinion of each was separately known. When the verdict was unanimous, *Defendit numerus, junctæque umbone phalanges*.

Fabian, in his Chronicle,⁴⁸ gives a very particular account of the mayor and aldermen of London claiming privileges in the reign of Henry III. namely, that for a trespass against the king, a citizen should be tried by *twelve* of his citizens; for murder, by thirty citizens; and for trespass against a stranger, by the oath of *six* citizens and himself. Mr. Barrington then asks, "Can it be contended after this, that the trial by twelve jurymen was thoroughly introduced, or are there any passages in the old historians, which clearly prove it to have been so established before the time of Henry III.?"

The learned Dr. Hickes was of opinion, from a

⁴⁸ Vol. i. p. 10. These privileges claimed by the citizens of London are alluded to in a grant of King John's to the city of Lincoln, in the first year of his reign:—*Concessimus etiam quod de placitis coronam tangentibus, se possint dirationare*, (that is, clear themselves) *secundum consuetudinem civium civitatis Londonie*."—Rot. Ch. 1 Joh. No. 35. Petyt. MSS.—Vide Fabian's Chron. vol. i. p. 10.

multitude of instances, that our trial by a jury of twelve, was an early Scandinavian institution, and that it was brought from thence into England. Yet he supposes this to have been at a period later than is necessary for his argument, namely, after the Norman invasion,⁴⁰ or about the time of Henry II. He lays it down, without hesitation, that this method of decision was entirely unknown to the Anglo-Saxons. His authority may be considered the greater because he writes this part of his learned work in a letter to Sir Bartholomew Shower, who may therefore be supposed to have thought in the same manner on this head.

Dr. Hickee's supposition relating to a jury of "twelve" is not, however, correct, as the jury at its commencement did not consist of twelve, but gradually fell into that number; and it previously acted more in the quality of *compurgators* than as jurymen, as we now understand that term, their office then only enabling them to declare upon oath that they did not believe the accused was guilty of the offence charged against him; but not as our juries decide, *guilty* or *not guilty*.

The number TWELVE was, however, a sacred number among the northern tribes. [This had its origin undoubtedly, though the Scandinavians were heathens, under the patriarchal dispensation of the *twelve* tribes

⁴⁰ See Wootan's *Conspectus of Hickee's Thesaur.* p. 46. And Hickee's *Thesaur. Dissertat. Epistol.* vol. i. p. 38. seq.

of Israel; and under the gospel dispensation of the *twelve* apostles.] Odin's judges are *TWELVE*, and have *TWELVE* seats in Gladheim.⁵⁰ The god of the Edda has *TWELVE* names.⁵¹ An aristocracy of *TWELVE* is a well-known ancient establishment in the north. In the dialogue between Hervor and Angantyr, the latter promises to give Hervor *TWELVE MEN'S DEATHS*. He gives her that which is to be the death of *TWELVE* men—the sword Tírfing.⁵²

The druidical circular monuments of separate stones erect, are more frequently *TWELVE*, than any other number.⁵³

In Zealand and Sweden, many ancient circular monuments, consisting each of *TWELVE* rude stones, still remain, which were the places of judicature; and, according to Borlase, there are yet monuments of the same sort in Cornwall.⁵⁴—These monuments are also found in Persia, near Tauris. There is a passage in Exodus,⁵⁵ which seems to confirm this—"And Moses . . . builded an altar under the hill, and *TWELVE* pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel."⁵⁶

In Mallet's Northern Antiquities,⁵⁷ we have the fol-

⁵⁰ Edda. Isl. fab. vij.

⁵¹ Ibid. fab. i.

⁵² Hervavar-Saga apud Ol. Verel. cap. vij. p. 91.—Warton's Hist. of Eng. Poetry, vol. i. p. xxxvii. edit. 8vo.

⁵³ See Borlase, Antiq. Cornw. b. iij. ch. 7. edit. 1769, fol. And Toland, Hist. Druids, p. 89, 158, 160. See also Martin's Hebrid. p. 9.

⁵⁴ Compare Keyser, p. 93; and see Warton's Hist. of Poetry, vol. i. p. xxxvii. edit. 8vo.

⁵⁵ Chap. xxiv. 4.

⁵⁶ See more of this in Warton, *ut supra*.

⁵⁷ Vol. i. p. 151.

lowing account of the administration of justice in Iceland, which throws considerable light on the subject before us :—

Superior to all these assemblies of the smaller communities and provinces, were the STATES-GENERAL of the whole island, (*Alting*) which answered to the *Alsheriarting*, of the other Scandinavian nations, to the *Wittena-Gemot* of the Anglo-Saxons, to the *Champs de Mars*, or *de Mai*, of the French, and to the *Cortes* of the Spaniards. These assembled every year, and each citizen of Iceland thought it his honour and his duty to be present at them. The president of this great assembly was sovereign judge of the island. He possessed this office for life, but it was conferred upon him by the states. His principal business was to convoke the general assembly, and to see the observance of the laws; hence the name of *Lagman*, or “Man of the Laws,” was given to this magistrate. He had a power of examining in the presence of the states-general, and of reversing all the sentences pronounced by inferior judges throughout the island, of annulling their ordinances, and even of punishing them, if the complaints brought against them were well founded. He could propose the enacting of new laws, the repealing or changing of the old ones; and if they passed in the General Assembly, it was his business to put them in execution. Afterward this people began to have written laws, and the whole island had adopted one common form of jurisprudence; it was the *Lagman* or supreme

judge who had the keeping of the original authentic copy, to which all the others were conformable. To his judgment and that of the assembly, lay an appeal from the sentences given in the inferior courts. The bailiffs, or prefects, whose sentence he revised, were obliged to judge the cause over again in his presence, and he afterward pronounced sentence both on the contending parties, and on the judges. The fear of being condemned and punished before so numerous an assembly was a great check upon all those subaltern judges, and served to keep every magistrate within the bounds of his duty. Commonly the session of these general estates lasted sixteen days, and the people of Iceland shew at the present day the place of their meeting, which began and ended with solemn sacrifices. It was chiefly during that session that the *Lagman*, or sovereign judge, exercised his authority. Out of this assembly his power seems not to have been considerable; but he was at all times treated with great honour and respect, and was always considered as the oracle of the laws and the protector of the people. The Icelandic chronicles carefully note the year wherein each judge was elected, and the time was computed by the years of his election, as among the Lacedemonians by the *EPHORI*.

CHARITIES.

In the Fifteenth Report on the subject of charities, printed (1826) by order of the House of Commons,

there is the following account of a benefaction made to the hamlet of Radhuish by Richard Escott, esq.

Richard Escott, esq. by his will, made in 1785, reciting, that he had given his note of hand to the chapel-wardens of Radhuish, and their successors, in the sum of £100, with interest at five per cent. to dispose of the interest thereof to such charitable purposes amongst the poor of the said village of Radhuish, as he should by will or deed direct or appoint, directed that such interest should be yearly applied by the said chapel-wardens, and their successors for the time being, for and towards teaching the poor children of the said village to read, and be instructed in the duties of a christian; and the girls also to be instructed in plain work, spinning, and knitting of stockings, and under the direction and control of the person or persons, who should, for the time being, be thereafter in the possession of Escott Farm; and that the said chapel-wardens should account yearly for the expenditure to them of such interest; and in case the said sum of £100 should be paid unto such wardens, the same should be deposited immediately in the hands of such possessor of his estate aforesaid, for safe custody, until it could be put out on security, at interest, by the consent and direction of such possessor in writing; and that if the said wardens should, at any time or times, place out the said sum of £100, or apply the interest thereof, without such consent and direction as aforesaid, it should be considered as a wilful breach of trust in them, and they should be responsible,

and repay such monies to the possessor of such estate for the time being, who might maintain an action at law for recovery of the same.

And his will further recited, that he had given to the communion service of Radhuish chapel aforesaid, a chalice and a silver plate, a table-cloth and napkin; he gave to the officiating minister, each time he should administer the sacrament of bread and wine at the accustomed seasons, half-a-guinea, in order to revive and continue the good custom, for the comfort and convenience of such poor old people who could not go to attend the mother church of Carhampton, or as a perpetual fund for ever, to such officiating minister of the Lord's Supper, according to the established usage of the Church of England, not oftener than four times in the year.

And he also gave to the chapel-wardens of Radhuish aforesaid, the sum of £100 in trust, to be placed out at interest from time to time, in the same manner, and under the same power, control, and approbation, as was before-mentioned and directed, of and concerning the first sum of £100 and its interest; and if any over-plus of interest should remain from either of the said principal sums, after making the applications before-directed, the same should be given away, and distributed to and amongst the poor communicants, not exceeding half-a-crown each at one time, and the rest in bread to the poor of the village at Christmas yearly; desiring that the poor families in the said village, and the said

children to be taught under the means aforesaid, should be first, from time to time, supplied with testaments, psalters, and books of devotion, by the direction of the said possessors of Escott farm, from time to time.

It appears that the £200 left by the above will, remained with the proprietors of Escott Farm for some years, but it is entered in the chapel-wardens' book of Radhuish, that in the year 1801, Mrs. Mary Escott purchased with the whole sum of £200 stock in the public funds, now £217 6s. 7d. new-four per cents., standing in the names of Mary Escott and Thomas Sweet.

There is a dame's school in the hamlet of Hartrow,⁵⁸ to which twenty children are sent under this charity, by Mr. Thomas Sweet Escott.

Two guineas per annum are given to the minister for administering the sacrament, and the remainder is distributed in half-crowns, to poor communicants, according to the directions of the donor.

In consequence of the manor of Carhampton being in the crown at the time of the Norman Conquest, it is of that species of tenure called "tenure of ancient demesne."

On the introduction of the feudal system, about the time of the general survey, "it became a fundamental maxim and necessary principle of our English tenures that the king is the universal lord and

⁵⁸ In the Report it is printed "Hartrow," but query if it should not be "Radhuish."—J. S.

original proprietor of ALL the lands in his kingdom; and that no man doth or can possess any part of them but what has mediately or immediately been derived as a gift from him, to be held upon certain services."⁵⁹ And this concession on the part of the subject was necessary at that time, as a foundation of the polity then set on foot, for the establishment of a military system for the defence of the realm. In this sense, therefore, and with reference to the king as seigneur, or lord paramount, the whole English territory was, and now is, *the land of the king*.

But the expression "Terra Regis," as used in Domesday Book, in the instance before us, is to be understood as denoting the king's own particular estate, or that of which he was the sole, individual, ultimate proprietor; having what Spelman calls *FUNDI PROPRIETATEM*, the *LORDSHIP* over the whole, whether occupied by himself, as was usually the case in part, or granted out in fee, under certain rents and services reserved thereupon; or let out to tenants in such manner as to be still resumable according to the terms of the demise. And this is what, at this day, is called *ANCIENT DEMESNE OF THE CROWN*. And such of the tenants hereof as held in *villanage*, or *privileged villanage*, that is by villan services, but which were *determinate* and *certain*, were called *SOCMEN IN ANCIENT DEMESNE*, whose proper representatives are the customary copyholders of the present time.⁶⁰

All those estates which are called in Domesday Book, *Terræ Regis*, were manors belonging to the crown, being part of its *antiquum dominicum*, or ancient demesne; a great portion of the lands comprised within those manors was in the hands of tenants, who held the same of the crown by a peculiar species of Socage tenure, that has long been known by the appellation of Ancient Demesne.

This tenure can only subsist in manors of ancient demesne. And where a question now arises whether a manor is of ancient demesne, or not, it can only be determined by a reference to Domesday.

The tenants of ancient demesne, that is, the persons who held

⁵⁹ Blackstone's Com. b. ii. ch. 4.

⁶⁰ Manning's History of the County of Surrey, vol. i. p. 9. note.

lands, parcel of these manors, in socage, did the service of cultivating the demesnes, or supplying provisions for the sustenance of the king's household—services of the utmost necessity in those times, when our kings lived on the produce of their own lands.

To the end that these tenants might the better apply themselves to their labours, for the profit of the king, they had six privileges ; 1. They could not be impleaded for their lands, &c. out of the manor ; 2. They could not be impannelled to appear at Westminster, or elsewhere, upon any inquest or trial ; 3. They were free and quit from all manner of tolls, in fairs and markets, for all things concerning husbandry and sustenance ; 4. And also of taxes and talliages by parliament, unless specially named ; 5. And also of contributions to the expenses of knights of the shire ; 6. If severally distrained for other services, they might all join in a writ of *Monstraverunt*.

These privileges only extended to the tenants in socage of manors of ancient demesne ; not to those who held other parts of such manors by knight's service : for the service of the plough and husbandry was the cause of them. Although in course of time most of these manors were granted by the crown to subjects, yet the socage tenants preserved their ancient privileges, and continued to be tenants in ancient demesne, though the services were commuted for money rents.

The tenure of ancient demesne is confined to lands held in socage of those manors which were formerly in the possession of the crown, by the service of cultivating the demesnes of such manors, or by a render of provisions. The manor itself, and such other parts of it as were held by knight's service, were not considered as ancient demesne, but as frank fee. It is therefore inaccurate to say that a manor is held in ancient demesne ; the proper expression being, a manor of ancient demesne, in which the socage lands are held by that tenure.

Where a manor of this kind is in the hands of a subject, it is in the power of the lord and tenants to destroy the tenure. Thus if the tenant is impleaded in any of the courts of Westminster, and the lord is a party to the suit, the lands become frank-fee ; the privilege of ancient demesne being established for the benefit of both the lord and tenants, they may by their joint act destroy it.

If the lord enfeoffs another of the tenantry, this makes the land frank-fee ; because the services are extinguished. So if the lord releases to the tenant all his right in the lands ; or if he confirms to him, to hold by certain services at common law.

Whenever the manor of which the lands are held in ancient demesne, is destroyed, that tenure is also destroyed. For there being no court left, the tenants must sue and be sued in the courts at Westminster.⁶¹

In the Domesday account of the value of the manors of Williton, Cannington, and Carhampton, it is said that they "render one hundred pounds, one hundred and sixteen shillings, and sixteen pence halfpenny, of *twenty in the ore*."

There have been about as many opinions respecting the *ore*, as to what it was, whether it was a real coin, a nominal coin, or a money of account, as there have been respecting tenants in villanage, and altogether as satisfactory. I will arrange these opinions in the following order, and afterward shew what the phrase "twenty in the ore" really signified.

First, as to opinions :—

1. The *ore* is universally considered as a money merely nominal, its value is supposed to have been the weight of twenty Saxon pennies, equal to one-twelfth of the Saxon pound.⁶²

2. Spelman and Somner are of opinion that there was no specific coin called an *ore*, but that it signified the same as our ounce. It differed according to the variation of the standard, and was sometimes valued at twelve pennies, sometimes at sixteen, and at other times at twenty pennies.⁶³

3. Camden, with a freedom and openness of mind equal to his other abilities, very honestly confessed that he knew not what to make

⁶¹ Cruise's Digest of the Laws of England, vol. i. p. 41—43.

⁶² Strutt's Chronicle, vol. ii. p. 234.

⁶³ See Gloss. X. Scriptores.—Kelham's Notes to Laws of William the Conqueror, p. 13.

of it. "The Danes brought in a reckoning of money by *ores*, (*per oras*) which is mentioned in Domesday Book, whether it were as several coins, or a certain sum, I know not: but I collect out of the Abbey Book of Burton, that twenty *oræ* were rateable to two marks of silver."

4. Lambarde supposed it a brass coin; Somner that no such coin existed; but that it always signified an ounce, of which there were two sorts, the one of sixteen, the other of twenty pence. Dr. Hickeys was uncertain whether it was a coin, or only money of account. And Bishop Fleetwood observes, 'there is some dispute whether the pound was made up of twelve or fifteen ounces. In the thirtieth of King Ethelred's laws (as they are in Brompton) you will find these words: "let those who overlook the ports see that every weight at the market be the weight by which my money is received, and let each of them be marked, so that fifteen *oræ* make a pound." And in Sir Henry Spelman's Glossary you will find that *ora* was also a piece of money valued at fifteen pence, for which he quotes this passage;⁶⁴ "the men of Berkeholt, com. Suffolk, say, that in the time of King Henry they had a custom, that when they would marry out their daughters, they were wont to pay, for leave to do so, two *oræ*, which are valued at thirty-two pence. Now fifteen *oræ* make just a Saxon pound; forty-eight shillings, or fifteen times sixteen *oræ* make two hundred and forty pence."

5. In Domesday Book the *ora* is regularly used for the ounce, or twelfth part of the nummular pound, and its perpetual valuation is twenty pence; an abundant proof, as Du Fresne has well observed, that there were, or had been, several sorts of *oræ* then in use; and therefore to prevent all ambiguity or dispute between the crown and the subject, the sums payable to the exchequer were fixed at a certain value in their current cash.⁶⁵

II. As to what the phrase "twenty in the ore" really signified:

1. It is necessary to premise that the only coin in England during

⁶⁴ Plac. coram Rege Term. Mich. 37 Hen. III. Rot. 4.

⁶⁵ Nichols's Hist. of Leicestershire, vol. i. p. xxxix.

the Heptarchic period, from thence to the Norman advent, and to the reign of Henry III. was the silver penny. This coin was celebrated all over Europe in the middle ages, and almost the only money known in the northern kingdoms. In neatness of fabric such as the arts then were, and in purity of metal, it is superior even to the Italian and French coins of the same period. The commerce of England, which was far more considerable in those early times than is generally imagined, carried her coins into different countries. And after the ninth century the ravages of the Danes filled the northern kingdoms with English money, drawn from the people in the way of tribute.

2. The late Mr. Folkes⁶⁶ discovered that the tower pound, which continued so long in use in the English mints, was the money pound of the Anglo-Saxons. "It is reasonable," says he, "to think that William the Conqueror introduced no new weight into his mints, but that the same weight used there for some ages, and called the tower pound, was the old pound of the Saxon moneyers before the Conquest. This pound was lighter than the Troy pound by three-quarters of an ounce Troy," or three hundred and sixty grains. This continued till the year 1527, when that called the tower pound was disused, and the pound Troy substituted in its stead. During the Anglo-Saxon period, and till the reign of Edward III. every tower pound was coined into two hundred and forty silver pennies, each weighing twenty-two and a half of our present Troy grains, and every ounce into twenty pennies.

3. It therefore follows that when we find the phrase "twenty in the ore" used in Domesday Book, it means that the money paid into the royal exchequer should be of full weight and fineness, or as we should now say, *sterling* money. Strutt's conjecture⁶⁷ seems to have been correct when he asserted that the value of the *ore* was the weight of twenty Saxon pennies, and equal to one-twelfth of the Saxon pound. Spelman and Somner were equally so in their opinion, that there was no specific coin called an *ore*, but that it signified the Saxon ounce. And the assertion of Camden, that the *ore* had its origin with

⁶⁶ Tables of Engl. Silver Coins, p. 1, 2.

⁶⁷ See S. 1.

the Danes, and by which they reckoned their money, is also true, and that it was the same as our ounce. Now the Saxon pound was divided into twelve ounces, called by the Danes *oras*, which word seems to have been naturalized by the Anglo-Saxons, and was equal to five thousand four hundred grains; but the pound Troy contained five thousand, seven hundred and sixty grains. To corroborate this, we find that the Saxon pennies preserved in cabinets of the present day, weigh twenty-two grains and a half, which is the weight they should be to tally with the Domesday phrase of "twenty in the ore." They were coined at that weight, and they could not be received in payment at the exchequer unless they were of the full weight, "twenty in the ore," or that twenty pennies should weigh one ounce, or one-twelfth of a pound.

4. The small difference of three hundred and sixty grains, or three-fourths of a Troy ounce, between the tower pound and Troy pound will give the relative proportion of value between the Anglo-Saxon money and our own, namely, that two hundred and forty pennies of the former were equal to sixty-one shillings and ten-pence halfpenny in weight of our present silver money, since the alteration of 1816.

5. But the Norman officers in the king's exchequer had another mode of ascertaining the value of the Saxon pennies. The money might be sufficient in number and weight, yet not in quality or fineness; for it by no means followed that two hundred and forty pennies, which constituted a pound weight, was in fact a pound of silver, because copper or other metal might be intermixed, and without examination be taken as good and of full weight. To detect this imperfect money the *assay* was instituted, and this is denoted in Domesday by the phrase so many pounds "*areas et pensatas*," that is, assayed and weighed, or as it is generally translated, "burnt and weighed." It has been asserted that the bishop of Salisbury instituted the assay, *arsura*, in the reign of Henry I.; but this could not have been the case, because Domesday Book shews that it was known and practised in the time of the Conqueror. In that record it appears that the king had this right of assay only in a few places, therefore it is pro-

table that the bishop extended that right in a subsequent reign, to all money paid into the exchequer.⁶⁸

6. The following table shews the gradual decrease in weight which the silver penny has sustained since the time of William the Conqueror :—

William I.	22½	Henry VIII.	10
Edward III.....	20	Edward VI.....	8
Richard II.	18	Elizabeth.....	7¾
Henry V.....	16	George III. 1816	7¼
Henry VI.	12	and a small fraction.	
Henry VII.....	11¼		

7. The pound in Domesday Book was actually a pound of silver in weight, and as there was no other coin than "pennies," it contained two hundred and forty of those pieces. The shilling was nominal, for there was not any coin of that name for many centuries after the Conquest, but what is called a shilling in Domesday Book always consisted in reckoning of twelve pennies.

⁶⁸ Turner's Anglo-Saxons, vol. ii. pp. 607, 608.

WOOTTON-COURTENAY.⁶⁹

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—RECTORY.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL NOTICES.—CHARITIES.—MANOR.—FAMILY OF COURTENAY.—BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF BISHOP MOUNTAGUE.

WOOTTON-COURTENAY, a parish on the side of the southern slope of Grabhurst, and in the valley which divides it from Dunkery. It is bounded on the north by Selworthy and Minehead; on the east by the latter parish, Dunster, and Carhampton; on the south by Timberscombe and Cutcombe; and by the latter and Luccombe on the west. In it are five hamlets, namely, Ranscombe, Huntsgate, Wootton-Ford, Brockwell, and Burrow. By a recent survey it was found to contain about thirteen hundred acres of inclosed lands, and nearly fourteen hundred acres of commons and furze brake, of which nine hundred and forty acres of common are on Dunkery. The lands in this parish, which are in the vale between Grabhurst and Dunkery, and for

⁶⁹ Wootton, from the Anglo-Saxon, *Wude*, a wood or forest, and *Twa*, a town, that is wood town, or the town in the wood, from its vicinity to Exmoor forest. Its additional name is from its having been the property of the family of Courtenay.

some way up the former, are good, the soil being mostly stone rush, or a good kind of red sand. There is very little timber here except that which grows in the hedgerows, which is very fine. The village of Wootton-Courtenay is pleasantly situated on the verge of the plain at the foot of Grabhurst, facing the south; it forms a neat but irregular street, with its pretty neat church, and well kept church-yard. In front, and distant about two miles, towers Dunkery, on the left is Timberscombe and the vale of Avill, and the plain that terminates at Porlock Bay is on the right; many of the houses are built in the same manner as those we have described in Porlock, with their chimneys towards the street. A fair for cattle and sheep was held here formerly on the 19th of September, but it has been discontinued some years. Huntsgate lies about a mile west from the church, on the road to Luccombe; Ranscombe about half a mile east on the road to Dunster; Burrow about a mile south on the road to Cutcombe; and Wootton-Ford and Brockwell both lie under Dunkery.

The living is a rectory, in the deanery of Dunster, and in 1292 was valued at seven marks, three shillings, and four-pence. It was appropriated to the alien priory of Stoke-Courcy,⁷⁰ and as parcel of its possessions was

⁷⁰ The priory of Stoke-Courcy was a cell to the Benedictine Abbey of St. Mary de Lonlay, in Normandy. Collinson says that its revenues in 1444 were valued at only £35 a year; but Bishop Tanner states that they amounted to £58.

granted by King Henry VI. (1442) when he suppressed the alien monasteries, to Eton College, the provost and fellows of which are now the patrons. It is valued in the king's books at £16 8s. 7½d. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* there are the following particulars relating to this benefice :—

1535. Bartholomew Mitchell, Rector.

Annual value of the demesne or glebe

lands	2	13	4
Tithes of wool and lamb	2	19	4
Predial tithes	0	16	8
Oblations and other casualties	10	10	8
	<hr/>		
	£17	0	0

Out of which sum there is paid

To the bishop for procu-

rations 0 3 11

To the archdeacon of Taun-

ton for synodals..... 0 7 5½—0 11 4½

£16 8 7½

Here is a very good parsonage house, and more than one hundred acres of glebe land. The present annual value of the living is about £400.

RECTORS OF WOOTTON-COURTENAY.

Ralph Combes.

1720. Charles Hawtrey, sub-dean and canon-residentary of Exeter.

1720. Edmund Bentham, S. T. B. St. John's College, Cambridge.
1781. George Bryant, A. M. Bennet Coll. Camb.
1800. C. L. Scott, A. M. King's Coll. Camb.
-

The church, which is a very light and cheerful-looking structure, is dedicated to All-Saints, stands on the side of the hill behind the village, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, all covered with tiles. At the west end there is an embattled tower, containing a clock and five bells. The aisle is divided from the nave by three arches, thirteen feet wide and seventeen feet high. The pillars, which are clustered, are six feet in circumference, and ten feet high to the spring of the arches. On the south side, over two of these pillars, there are niches, embellished with gothic ornaments.⁸¹ On each side of the east window, on the south of the nave, are angels, with the names St. Gabriel and St. Michael on their breasts. There is likewise an ancient octagonal sculptured font, and a handsome gallery, supported by three arches, all of fine old oak. The king's arms by H. Phelps, bears the date of 1766.

The following inscriptions are in the chancel, against the wall :—" Underneath is deposited the remains of

⁸¹ Collinson, in his History of Somerset, says that in the niches over these pillars, were the statues of St. Christopher carrying our Saviour on his shoulder through a river ; the Virgin Mary ; and St. Lawrence with the gridiron. If Mr. Collinson, or his coadjutor Mr. Rack, saw such statues when the latter surveyed this church, they are not there at the present time.

Mary Newcombe, spinster, daughter of J. Newcombe, late of Brinklow, in the county of Warwick, esq., and sister to Margaret, the wife of the Rev. G. Bryant, rector of this parish ;” and “ near this place is interred the remains of the Rev. George Bryant, many years rector of this parish, and formerly fellow of Bennet Col. Cam. He died 2 June, 1800, aged 51.”

And on the floor :—“ *Hic jacent sepulti* Thomas Morley, 16 Mar. 1624. *Ricardus* Morley, 4 Mar. 1627. *Filii Johannis* Morley, rectoris hujus Ecclesiæ.”

“The Rev. Ralph Coombes, rector of the parish of Wootton-Courtenay, departed this life the 29th of May, and was buried June 4th, 1720 ; aged 60.”

“The Rev. Mr. Charles Snape, rector of the parish of Wootton-Courtenay, died Sept. 12, 1726, aged 40. Charles his son, and Penelope his daughter, died 15th March, 1723. Also Penelope his second daughter, April, 1726.”

In the nave :—“ Here lyeth the body of Mary, the wife of John Siderfin, of this parish, who departed this life Oct. 3, 1717, aged 69 years.”

“ Here lieth the body of Henry Leigh, who died the 31st of May, 1632.”

The register goes back as far as 1558. It contains the entries made during the period of the Cromwell usurpation.

The church-yard is kept in excellent order: in it are the remains of a stone cross, with two rows of steps

and an ornamented sculptured base. There is also a fine yew tree with wide spreading branches.

There is no inn in this village; but on Sundays, in fine weather, before and after divine service, a stranger may see a great part of the population of the parish assembled together in the church-yard, with cheerful looks, recognizing each other with mutual inquiries, and engaged in conversation, in little groups.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £61 15s. 11d.; and in 1785, £95 17s. In 1776, there was a work-house here, which would accommodate sixteen persons.

In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £165 1s. 6d. at 3s. 2d. in the pound.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, as assessed to the property tax, was £2279. In 1818, the county rate was £2 7s. 5½d.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons in 1818, the Rev. C. L. Scott states that there are four small day-schools in this parish, in which about forty boys and girls are taught, books being supplied from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; and a few are taught at the minister's expense. The poorer classes are desirous of more sufficient means for educating their children.

In 1815, there were 51 poor here.

In 1801, the resident population of this parish was 345.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Wootton-Courtenay stands thus :—

Houses inhabited	57
Uninhabited	0
Building	0
Families	81
Of whom were employed	
In agriculture	64
In trade	14
All other	3
Persons 411 :—viz.	
Males	215
Females	196
Increase in twenty years	66

CHARITIES.

In the Fifteenth Report of the Commissioners of Charities, printed by order of the House of Commons in 1826, there is the following account of a charity left for the benefit of the poor of this parish :—

George Joyce, late of Winsford, in the county of Somerset, by his will, made on or about the 7th day of May, 1652, devised to the poor of the several parishes of Cutcombe, Winsford, and Wootton-Courtenay, all his lands, with a messuage and appurtenances lying in Winsford aforesaid, after the decease of his wife

Eleanor Joyce, to remain to them for ever, the rents and issues and profits to be distributed in Easter week.

Eleanor Joyce died October 3rd, 1683, and the will was afterward established by a decree of the court of chancery, in the year 1691.

The trust premises consist of a farm, containing about one hundred acres in Wingfield parish, vested in trustees, five being appointed for each of the parishes, which number has been kept up ever since by successive appointments, and the lands regularly transferred.

The trustees for the parish of Wootton-Courtenay now, are Thomas Greenslade, Robert Hole, sen. Robert Hole, jun. James Hole, and Robert Goodden, and the last feoffment is dated the 1st of May, 1819.

The trustees let and manage the farm, which is now held by — White, for a term of seven years, commencing from lady-day, 1824, at a rent of £38 per annum. The land is for the most part rough poor land, and it is considered that the best rent has been obtained for it. The tenant is under covenants to pay the land tax and poors' rates, and to keep the buildings, gates, and fences in repair.

The portion of the rent belonging to Wootton-Courtenay last year, was distributed among the poor of the said parish, and amounted to the sum of £10 19s. 4½d.

The trustees meet to deliberate upon the proper objects to be relieved, and settle the proportions of the different parishes, about a year before the actual distribution of the money, and the applicants are expected

to make their claims at this meeting, in order that the trustees may, in the interval, investigate them, by making the proper inquiries into their characters.

After the conquest of England by the duke of Normandy, the manor of Wootton, then called *Otone*, was given to William de Faleise, one of the Conqueror's followers, of whom little more is known than his name. He was a witness to the foundation charter of Sele priory, in the county of Sussex; and his posterity appear to have continued until the time of King John, for in that reign a William de Faleise was a committee of the honour of Gloucester, and forfeited part of it, if not all his estates, in the time of Edward I. We find a person called Elias de Faleise at Ranston, in the county of Dorset, in that reign.⁸²

In Domesday Book the manor of Wootton is thus described:—

“William [de Faleise] himself holds OTONE. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for three hides. The arable land is sufficient for ten ploughs. There are in the demesne three ploughs, and six bondmen. Ten villans and eight bordars have three ploughs. There is a mill which renders ten-pence. There are four acres of meadow, a pasture one mile in length and half a mile in breadth; and a wood of the same dimensions. It was and is worth one hundred shillings.”⁸³

⁸² Introd. to Hist. of Dorset, by Hutchins, p. 14. ⁸³ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 96. b.

In the Exeter Domesday it is added that "the villan tenants hold two hides of land and three ploughs. William de Faleise has in "Ottona" one horse, thirteen bullocks, seven hogs, one hundred and fifty sheep, and eighteen goats.⁸⁴

In the Testa de Nevill⁸⁵ it is said that Warine Fitzgerold, who died about the second of Henry III. holds the manor of Wootton, which belongs to his barony of Stoke-Courcy. This Warine Fitzgerold married Alice, daughter and heiress of William de Courcy; and from the above statement it may be inferred that the barony of William de Faleise merged in that of Courcy.

In the latter end of the reign of Henry III. Wootton appears to have been the lordship of Philip, Lord Basset, of Wycombe, in the county of Buckingham, whose daughter Oliva, having married Hugh le' de Spenser, carried it into that family. This Hugh was one of the greatest barons of the reign in which he lived, and taking arms, with other nobles, in defence of their ancient privileges, was among those lords, who in 1258, were appointed to amend and reform what they should think amiss in the kingdom. In the forty-fourth of Henry III. he was advanced to the important office of chief justiciary of England, which at that time comprehended the jurisdiction of all the present courts of law. In 1264, he appeared in arms against the king, at Northampton, and was in the battle of Lewes, where

⁸⁴ Exon. D. fo. 347.

⁸⁵ p. 162.

he behaved in the most courageous manner. After that battle, in which the king was taken prisoner, the insurgent barons made him governor of Orford Castle, in the county of Suffolk, and also of four other castles; and in June following, the king sent his writ to all the cities, boroughs, and towns on the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk, to be obedient to the directions of this Hugh, his justiciary. After this he forsook the cause of the barons, being disgusted at the haughty behaviour of Simon Montfort, earl of Leicester, and joined the king, on which he was summoned to parliament as a baron. However, he again put himself in arms with the barons, and fighting with great courage at the battle of Evesham, was therein slain on the 5th of August, 1265. By his wife Oliva Basset, he had issue Hugh le de Spenser, earl of Winchester, called in our histories Hugh le de Spenser, *senior*, celebrated, with his son, Hugh *junior*, as the unhappy favourites of King Edward II. By the said Oliva, he was also father of a daughter, Eleanor, married to Hugh de Courtenay, father of Hugh, the first earl of Devonshire of that family.

This Hugh de Courtenay had in marriage with the said Eleanor le de Spenser, the manor of Wootton, since called after the name of this family, Wootton-Courtenay. In the tenth of Edward I. (1282) he was in the expedition then made into Wales, and afterward in other expeditions. He had many contests with the monks of Ford, relative to certain services, which, as

patron of that abbey, he required from them, but which his father had relinquished in their behalf. By his wife the said Eleanor, he had issue two sons and four daughters; the sons were *Hugh*, his successor, and *Philip*, a brave soldier, who was slain in the battle fought with the Scots, near Stirling, on the 24th of June, 1314.

He died at his house, which he had built at Colycombe, in the parish of Colyton, on the 28th of February, twentieth of Edward I. (1291.)

In the fourth year of Edward I. (1276) during the life-time of this Hugh, an inquisition was taken relating to encroachments made upon the property of the crown, in the hundred of Carhampton, in which there are the following particulars in reference to the manor of Wootton-Courtenay :—

“The jurors of the Hundred of Carhampton in relation to ancient suits and services, say, that Philip Basset, who held the manor of Wootton, in the said hundred, withdrew his suit from three weeks to three weeks, for fifteen years past, without any authority as they believe. And Hugh de Courtenay, who now holds the said manor has withdrawn the said suit in the same way. They say also that the said manor was accustomed to answer, before the time aforesaid, to the said hundred as two tithings, but now it only answers for one.”⁸⁶

⁸⁶ Rot. Hundred. Som. 4 Edw. I. vol. ii. p. 140.

Four years after this, namely in 1280, the same Hugh de Courtenay was summoned in a plea of *quo warranto* to shew by what authority he had withdrawn, without licence and against the will of the king, the suit which he owes to the king's Hundred of Carhampton, for the manor of Wootton, which was accustomed to answer as one tithing to the said hundred.

"And the said Hugh came, and as to the suit, said, there were some pleadings between the said Hugh and John de Mohun, who is a minor, and in ward to the king, whose the aforesaid Hundred of Carhampton is. Wherefore they agreed between them that the bailiff of the said hundred should make suit for him the said Hugh at the same hundred. And that the king in the name of the said John who is in his wardship, is in seizin of the said suit by the bailiff aforesaid. And that as to the tithing, that himself never had any thing, nor any thing thence had claimed, neither had he thence withdrawn any thing. Therefore the king had thence his seizin."⁸⁷

This Hugh de Courtenay was succeeded in the barony of Oakhampton by his eldest son Hugh, who was the first earl of Devonshire of this family. He was in five expeditions into Scotland, and one into Wales, in the reign of Edward I. He was summoned to all the parliaments of Edward II. and in the second year of that reign received the honour of a knight banneret. In

⁸⁷ *Placita de Quo Warranto*, 8 Edw. I. Som. p. 693.

the eighth of the same king, he was in the expeditions then made in Scotland ; and in the first eight years of Edward III. was fifteen times summoned to parliament as a baron. In the ninth of the same reign, he was twice summoned to parliament by the name of Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devonshire, being the last earl in the order of precedence, as having been that year only restored to his right to that title. In the tenth of the same reign he was twice summoned to parliament as the fourth earl in order, being then restored to his due place, and to every parliament, enjoying the fourth or fifth place, until the fourteenth of Edward III. (1340) in which year he died. By his wife Agnes, daughter of the Lord St. John, of Basing, he had issue four sons and two daughters ; 1. Hugh, his successor, who became second earl of Devonshire ; 2. John, abbot of Tavistock ; 3. Robert ; and 4. Thomas. The daughters were Eleanor and Elizabeth.

Thomas Courtenay the fourth son, succeeded on his father's death to the manor of Wootton. He was commonly called Sir Thomas Courtenay, of South-Pole, and was put in commission with his brother Hugh, earl of Devonshire, to lead the Devonshire and Cornish men against the French, who had landed in the West, whom they courageously beat off and obliged them to return to their own country. He likewise served King Edward III. in several of his expeditions. He died in the thirtieth of Edward III. (1356) having married Muriel, one of the daughters and co-heiresses

of John de Moels, a great baron of that period, by whom he had one son, Hugh de Courtenay, who died under age without issue in the forty-second of Edward III.; and two daughters, Margaret and Muriel. Hugh, the son, was seized at his death of the manors of Maperton, South-Cadbury, Wootton-Courtenay, Cricket, and Northam, all in the county of Somerset; of the manor of King's-Carswell, the hundred of Haytor, the manor of Pole, and of Thurleston, Plymtree, and Sutton-Lucy, in the parish of Widworthy, in the county of Devon; of the manor of Over-Wallop, in Hampshire; and the manor of Overton, in the county of Oxford. On the death of this Hugh de Courtenay, his estates were divided between his two sisters; Margaret, the elder, having married Sir Thomas Peverell, took with her this manor of Wootton. The other sister, Muriel, became the wife of John, Lord Dinham. By an inquisition taken in the first of Henry VI. it was found that Margaret Peverell held this manor at her decease, and that her heirs were Catharine, the wife of Sir Walter Hungerford; and Eleanor, the wife of Sir William Talbot, both daughters of the said Margaret and Sir Thomas Peverell. On the partition, Sir Walter Hungerford had this manor, and in the fourth of Edward IV. Robert, Lord Hungerford; who had been attainted and beheaded for his adherence to the house of Lancaster, and Eleanor his wife, daughter and heiress of William, Lord Molines, were found to hold the manor of Wootton-Courtenay and the advowson of the

church of that place. Thomas, Lord Hungerford, his son, who was executed at Salisbury in the eighth of Edward IV. (1469) left an only daughter, Mary, who on her marriage with Edward, Lord Hastings, ancestor of the earls of Huntingdon and the present marquess of Hastings, carried this manor and very considerable estates into that family.⁸⁸ After whom it was possessed by the noble family of Stawel. Mary, daughter and sole heiress of Edward, the last Lord Stawel, having married the right hon. Henry Bilson Legge, fourth son of William, first earl of Dartmouth, that gentleman in her right became lord of this manor, and of whom see a memoir below. On the 20th of May, 1760, King George II. was pleased to advance this lady to the peerage, by the title of Baroness Stawel, of Somerton, in the county of Somerset, with limitation to her heirs male by the said Mr. Legge, by whom her ladyship had issue one son, Henry Stawel Bilson Legge. On the death of Mr. Legge in 1764, her ladyship married secondly in 1768, the late earl of Hillsborough, afterward marquess of Downshire; and on her death in 1780, she was succeeded in the barony of Stawel by her only son, above-mentioned. His lordship married in July 1779, Mary, daughter of Viscount Curzon, by whom, who died in 1804, he had issue, a son born in 1785, who died young, and one daughter, Mary, who survived him, and married August 11th, 1803, the hon. John

⁸⁸ Cleveland's Hist. of the Courtenays, p. 151.—Collins's Peerage, by Brydges, vol. vi.—Palgrave's Parl. Writs, vol. i. p. 553.

Dutton, now Lord Sherborne, who is at present the owner of the manor of Wootton-Courtenay, and by his steward, William Leigh, esq. of Bardon, holds here courts leet and baron. There is no manor-house.

The following are also freeholders in this parish ; —Lord King ; J. F. Luttrell, esq. ; James Hole, esq. ; William Hole, esq. ; and Mrs. Gooding.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE RIGHT HON. HENRY
BILSON LEGGE,

[By Dr. John Butler, late Lord Bishop of Oxford.]

The reputation of men, who have been distinguished by their parts, virtues, and public services, being canvassed by many who had little or no personal knowledge of them, and the judgments formed by others being sometimes malicious and generally partial, there remains in most cases, some justice to be done to the memory and real merits of such men. This is but seldom a popular undertaking. The public is more attentive to censure than praise ; and, during the lives of eminent men, a true description of them is discredited, by the resemblance it bears to the language of flattery.

The character of Mr. Legge, is so circumstanced, that a true account of him may venture to appear, without soliciting attention or credit. It comes too late to be suspected of flattery, and the public is prepossessed in its favour, which would be considerable

encouragement to an essay of this kind, even without the farther advantage of an appeal, which might be made to many great and respectable persons, who knew Mr. Legge, and are qualified to attest any truth, or expose any falsehood concerning him.

He was so well known, that it seems unnecessary to mention, that he was nobly born. The formal introduction of a pedigree is superfluous, in the case of a character eminently meritorious in itself; and his noble family will pardon the liberty of saying, that, however great the honour might be, which he derived from his birth, it became inconsiderable, when compared with his personal merits and excellencies.

He was not educated at any of those schools which produce most of the ornaments and supporters of their country; but he was a remarkable instance, how indifferent it is in what nursery a man of strong parts, natural wit, and superior judgment, has been raised. Notwithstanding he entered upon business very early, and applied himself to it with the closest attention, very few of his rank were so well acquainted with the most eminent Greek and Roman classics; and he was singularly happy in the application of passages, which he seemed to have hardly time to consider.

He was designed in his younger years, for the service of his country, in the royal navy; but that service being at that time inactive, he quitted it after one or two voyages, and becoming known to Sir Robert Walpole, was received into the family and confidence of

that minister ; and, after having filled the station of his secretary for some years, he obtained a seat in parliament, and passed through the several offices of secretary to the treasurer ; secretary to the duke of Devonshire, father of the late duke, as lord lieutenant of Ireland ; one of the commissioners of the admiralty ; envoy-extraordinary to the court of Berlin ; treasurer of the navy ; chancellor and under-treasurer of the exchequer, and one of the commissioners of the treasury ; and he continued, to the last, one of his majesty's privy counsel.

These things are barely, and perhaps not accurately mentioned, because other men have passed through such offices. Eminence of station not being, in every case, an argument of eminent worth, it is, in itself, but a feeble recommendation to posterity, and will prove no more at best, than that the person exalted was fortunate. The moderation and equanimity with which Mr. Legge bore his success, was the more extraordinary, as he was one of the few men advanced to high offices, who are not so much obliged to fortune, as to themselves ; and if his character could be duly represented to future times, his promotion would appear to have done honour to the present age.

The characters of persons of distinction are often celebrated by a recital of the vices and failings from which they are exempt ; and in this view, there are perhaps none, among the most exceptionable, totally excluded from praise. But this would be but a poor

description of the real virtues and excellencies of Mr. Legge. They were inconsistent with many or great failings, and they so possessed the attention of his observers, and so effectually concealed the few foibles which he might have, that malice itself appears, from some things which were said of him, to have been quite at a loss, on what part of his character to alight.

He did not pretend to be singular in any of his virtues; and it would be a needless exaggeration to represent him so. But some of the virtues he had, appeared so much the genuine result of that happy constitution of heart and temper, which distinguished him, that they became characteristical in him; and a description of his person and manner would not present him more strikingly to the memory of those who knew him, than the bare mention of his integrity, candour, and benevolence.

But he was distinguished by abilities less common than even his virtues. They might seem to be limited, as having been chiefly displayed to the public, in the last office he filled. But the fundamental qualifications for such offices of business as are not professional, being much the same, it may be said, without derogating from the great men who have excelled in their departments, that Mr. Legge was qualified for any. With a penetrating apprehension, and a memory remarkably tenacious of substantial knowledge, he had a judgment so clear and sound, that it seems hardly possible for any human mind to be more accurate, unembarrassed,

and comprehensive of all the ideas related to the subject before him, as well as of all the consequences which follow from comparing them.

He assisted these great powers of his understanding by an indefatigable industry, not commonly annexed to extraordinary parts ; and he kept his mind open for the admission of any material instruction, by a modesty of temper natural to men who seem to need instruction least. Though he was never first commissioner of the treasury, yet his office of chancellor of the exchequer obliging him to move for the supplies in parliament, and to propose the ways and means, he seemed to think himself responsible for his knowledge in the business of his office, as well as for his integrity in the discharge of it. He did not, it is well known, solicit, nor accept the office without reluctance, being discouraged by the distinguished abilities of two great predecessors of his, whose eminence in that branch was particularly known and understood by him.

But he was prevailed with to sacrifice his ease and happiness ; and he soon manifested how considerable the sacrifice was in his estimation, by the assiduity with which he applied himself to the study of the whole system of the public revenue, as well as by the gratitude with which he embraced the aids that books or men could give him ; and, by naturalizing in his own mind all the knowledge he could collect, he acquired in a very short space of time as familiar an acquaintance with that complex important business, as if he had been

trained up to it from his infancy, and had made it the sole study of his life.

He digested in his thoughts, and knew how to deliver with the utmost precision and perspicuity, a methodical account of the produce of every tax ; of its former state ; of its probable future diminution or increase ; of its relation to any other tax, as well as to public liberty ; of the condition of every branch of trade and luxury, and of the country in general, to bear the burthens laid upon it ; of the state of public credit, and the due proportion between the terms of a loan and the public exigencies ; of the means of alleviating the national burthens, by real economy, in the reduction of the establishment, as well as by practicable unpretending schemes for the gradual discharge of the public debt ; and of the various contingencies which might forward or retard that great work. He has left written evidences of the singular skill and accuracy with which he considered each of these subjects.

Furnished with this knowledge, to a degree apparently peculiar to him, he entered upon his office with the additional advantage of a general prepossession in favour of his integrity ; and during the time he served the crown in that department, he executed, without the power of a minister, and without any loss of popularity, the most unpopular, though at that time necessary work of raising more supplies, than had ever been raised, within the same number of years.

The popularity of the administration with which he

acted, and the encouraging success of the war, doubtless greatly assisted him ; and it would be improper to detract, in any degree, from the merits of an administration which did so much honour to the king and nation. But they who have the spirit to persevere, in admiring the public measures of that time, will do Mr. Legge the justice to confess, that his personal merit, and his credit with parliament and with the public, were always clearly discernable, when he conducted the invidious part of the business of government.

Without pretending to eloquence, and with a subject which will not easily admit the exercise of that talent, he was heard with an attention seldom paid to speeches, which must consist principally of arithmetical details. He was sure to keep up that attention, by a precision in his thoughts, which would not permit him, had he been inclined, to be tediously verbose ; and he preserved his own credit, and, in a certain degree, that of the government, by neither pretending nor promising more than he could perform, with the strictest regard to truth.

After his dismissal from office, he continued whilst his health would permit, to attend with the same application and vigilance, to the national finances, as a member of parliament ; and, in more than one instance, he assisted persons who had no particular claims upon him, rather than the crown or public should suffer by his silence. And this he did at a time when he thought himself personally affronted by the resolution of a great board, to deprive a near relation of his, who was

not of an age to be obnoxious to government himself, of an emolument which had with equal propriety and kindness been conferred upon him.

With so deep and extensive a fund of knowledge, so precisely arranged in his mind, and most judiciously applied to the service of his country, Mr. Legge was eminently qualified for the more inactive enjoyments of literature. Besides the pleasure he extracted from the best historians, philosophers, and divines, he had a taste for works of imagination, not common even among scholars; and knew how to relieve his labours and cares, in his few vacant hours with the best writers of that kind, ancient and modern, whose beauties he would relish and assimilate to his own ideas, with all the satisfaction of an ingenious man at perfect leisure.

But his friends could not spare him much uninterrupted pleasure of this sort; for he had another faculty, likewise foreign to the unentertaining tract of business. He was one of the best companions of his time. His wit was copious, easy, cheerful, chaste and original. He would animate the gravest conversation with some striking image which presented all the essential circumstances of a subject at once before the mind; he illustrated his images by embellishments, which the most fruitful imagination could not produce, without the aid of a most cheerful temper. Having a perpetual supply of this sort of entertainment, he was never tempted to have recourse to the poor expedient of keeping up mirth by excesses of licentiousness. Nor

would his humanity suffer him to display his wit at the expense of any person in company. He could be lively without the aid of other mens' foibles; or if they pressed upon him so directly, as not to be avoided, his raillery was inoffensive, and even agreeable to the object of it. If any whom he disliked or despised were mentioned during their absence, he had the happy art of venting his disgust or contempt by some pleasant expression of indifference, which sheltered perhaps an odious or a despicable character from more severe reflections, by only giving it a ridiculous aspect. Had his good sayings been treasured up, as those of much inferior wits have been, they would have descended to posterity; and many of them would have been relished, without a comment in any age. But he aimed at no reputation of this sort, and was so natural and easy in his manner, that his brightest thoughts dropped from him like common conversation, without the least appearance of any view to the success with which they were delivered.

These extraordinary powers, which are seldom united in the same mind, and continued remarkably vigorous in his, to his last moments, were the more amiable as well as solid in him, as they were accompanied by a most virtuous heart. It would be a painful task, and revive the excesses of private grief, to represent the loss of him in his domestic character, where he was in every respect and relation, an illustrious example of fidelity and tenderness. But his benevolence was not limited by any other known boundary, than the extent of

his power, or the demerits perhaps of particular men. Nor were these, in every case, obstacles to his good-will. He had doubtless penetration enough to discern human failings upon a very slight acquaintance; but he never suffered his mind to dwell upon them, if he could discover, or thought he had discovered a sufficient quantity of that probity and good-nature, which he valued above other accomplishments, and esteemed a compensation for many failings.

He seemed more particularly averse to hypocrisy and affectation of every sort, perhaps as being most opposite to his own temper and character. Common infirmities appeared either ridiculous or tolerable to him; but he could not bear to see the commerce of mutual good-will and esteem interrupted by the frauds of unfair dealers, who give themselves credit for more virtue and ability than they have. He had a better right than most men, to entertain and express a strong dislike of such persons; not only as he was disposed, in other cases, to make great allowance for the natural desire men have to advance in life; but as he was known to contribute warmly, to the utmost of his power, sometimes at the hazard of his power, to promote the views of his friends. He would ingenuously confess, that he had an end of his own, in conferring such obligations. His state of health, till within a year before he died, seemed to promise him a vigorous and lasting old age; and he thought a faithful obliged friend would be the most valuable of all the *subsidia senectutis*.

His sincerity being like the rest of his virtues, tinged with his natural good-humour, produced in him that amiable candour which sometimes broke out, in the midst of political contests, in a frank acknowledgment of truths on either side, which little minds, engaged in contests, are studious to suppress. Indeed, he could well afford to be candid on all occasions, being conscious, that the known purity of his intentions would support him in any concession which truth or good-nature impelled him to make.

He was as ingenuous in speaking of himself, as upon any other subject; and, instead of urging his pretensions with vehemence, or, as is often done, with a disregard to truth, he was never known to assume false merit in his conduct, either public or private; and his friends rather blamed him for not valuing himself sufficiently upon the merit he could truly pretend to. But he was of too gentle and easy a mind, to avail himself of all his claims, and trusted to the world, of which he had a better opinion, than men of penetration generally have, that his conduct, so far as it was understood, would secure to him as much reputation as he desired. Nor was he deceived in his opinion, for the inward respect of mankind towards him was as general as he could have wished it to be, had ambition been his ruling passion. The public sense of his worth was signally manifested at one time, by many unsought marks of esteem, and such as have always been thought honourable. Nor did they appear to be the result of mere

transient fits of popularity; for his reputation continued unshaken to the end of his life, and the almost universal regret of men of all parties followed him to his grave.

But the best men cannot pass through life without some censure. His known public conduct, and his exemplary private life, seemed to secure him from any attack of this sort. But envy and malice being keen and active, will suspect where they cannot charge, and insinuate where they cannot accuse. The strict and unaffected œconomy he practised in behalf of the public, as far as lay in his power, together with his aversion in his private life, to the mere glittering expenses of vanity, brought upon him the suspicion of too much parsimony in his temper, which they, who best knew Mr. Legge and his affairs, know to have been ill founded. He did not transgress the bounds of his fortune, and involve his posterity in difficulties, in order to purchase himself the temporary fame of splendour and magnificence; but he did full justice to the world, by living up to his rank and fortune, as well as by many private acts of beneficence, which he was too generous to divulge; and after having evinced his disinterestedness, on many occasions, in the course of public business, he amply satisfied those, who might suspect him of parsimony, or might, from his unpretending manner, mistake him as wanting the spirit of which he did not boast, that he valued his honour more than any other consideration.

It would have sufficed to mention this in general terms, without entering into a proof of it, had he not made it his dying request to the noble personage, who was best intitled to his affection and confidence, that he would lay before the public in vindication of him, the only reasons he knew of for his dismissal from office. He had acquiesced silently in that dismissal, apprehending, that the time might come, when his irreproachable conduct and character would efface the impression of private misrepresentations. But when he found, that the hopes of a recovery, with which he was often flattered, in the course of his disease, were quite vanished, and that it would be his lot to die in a state of disgrace with a most amiable and virtuous King, he apprehended for himself, lest his good name, which the best men have always wished to transmit to posterity, should suffer from a presumption easily propagated, that there must have been something wrong in him, to produce a dismissal, which is, in the case of most individuals removed from offices of state, a punishment of misconduct.

He was therefore anxiously desirous the world should know, that he was not turned out for any blemish in his private or public character; and he thought the most satisfactory method of securing his posthumous reputation, was to publish the few papers, which explain his case. He considered himself intitled to do this in his own vindication, as the papers contain no secrets, either of state, or of private friendship.

They are agreeably to his desire, here laid before the world, in their original form, with only a previous short narrative of the transaction which occasioned them.

Upon the duke of Bolton's accession to his title, in the year 1759, Mr. Legge was solicited to succeed his grace, as one of the representatives of the county of Southampton, his own seat in parliament chancing at that time to be vacant. He could not well have been importuned to an undertaking more unpleasant to him, and he declined it more than once, without reserve. The bustle of a popular election was unnatural to his liberal mind and manners, and a relation of that kind to a large county, in which he resided, might appear inconvenient to him, whose hands were at that time filled with public business. But he was prevailed with to accept the offer by the repeated intreaties of his friends, which were enforced by the plea, that his fortune and character would do credit to a party, which had all his life been countenanced by government; and with which he had ever acted, uniformly, though with undissembled moderation and good-humour towards the other party. And he had the further encouragement, of hoping, from the interest of the crown exerted in his favour, in conjunction with that of the then prevailing party in the county, as well as with his own personal interest, which was very considerable, that he should meet with no opposition.

These hopes, however, were not realized. A compe-

titor appeared in the person of Mr. Stuart, afterwards Sir Simeon Stuart; and he soon found himself involved in the disagreeable business of a contested election. Mr. Stuart's interest was adopted by a noble lord, (Bute) with whom Mr. Legge was not at variance; who had no apparent relation of any kind to the county; and whom therefore Mr. Legge did not think of consulting, before he resolved to comply with the desire of his friends.

After the county had been canvassed on both sides, Mr. Stuart thought fit to decline, and Mr. Legge received the following letter:—

“Downing Street, Nov. 25, Monday Evening.

“DEAR SIR,

“Lord Bute sent to me this morning, and told me, that having an opportunity of serving you, he had embraced it and done you an act of friendship; for that Mr. Stuart having been with him for his advice, whether to leave or pursue the election, as some of Mr. Stuart's friends thought this critical season of an invasion hanging over the kingdom to be a very improper time for parliamentary contests, his lordship had determined the point for relinquishing the pursuit; in consequence of which Mr. Stuart was to acquaint you with his resolution of declining a poll. Lord B. added, that neither he, nor the greater person whose name hath been used during the competition, would ever treat you with the more coldness for what hath happened: your part having been taken under an ignorance of their views and intentions; that Lord B. expected however, as he had a claim upon you, in right

of friendship, that you will concur with him, and give your aid to the person he shall recommend, at a future election. I answered to the last point, that I knew not, how far you would think yourself bound in honour to act with the body of whigs on such an occasion ; but if this consideration did not hinder, I was sure you would be happy to give him that or any other evidence of your respect for him.

“ You will be pleased therefore to consider well, and (if you please) with the advice of your friends, before you give an answer on this head that may tie you down, for on that answer, you plainly see, very much will depend.

“ I am, dear Sir,

“ Faithfully yours,

“ S. M.”

To this letter Mr. Legge returned the following answer :—

“ *Holte, Dec. 5th, 1759.*

“ DEAR M.

“ I return you many thanks for your letter. Since I received it, I have had an opportunity of seeing a little more of the spirit and temper of the county, and can answer it better than I could have done sooner. L——r H——e* do me great justice in supposing I was totally ignorant of their concerning themselves at all in the Hampshire election, at the time my engagements were taken. I am obliged to Lord B. for any

* Leicester House.

intentions he had to serve me, by the advice he gave to drop opposition ; but if Mr. Stuart, or his friends, had accepted the offer I made, with the concurrence of my friends, at the beginning, and as soon as I discovered what turn the election might take, every wish of Mr. Stuart's had been secured, the peace of the county never been interrupted, little less than £5000 a piece saved to us both ; and what is still of more consequence, a month's fermentation of parties been entirely prevented, which never fails to turn them all sour. Many of these good consequences had likewise been obtained, if the gentlemen had consulted, and enabled Lord B. to put an end to the contest before I left London, when you know how unwilling I was to push it to extremity.

“ As to the event of the election, there was not the least doubt about it. The county was thoroughly canvassed, and upon as exact returns, as I believe ever are or can be made in a case of this kind, I could have given Mr. Stuart all the doubtful ones and all the neuters, in addition to his own poll, and yet have carried the election by a majority of 1400. I did not come into a single town (except Alton) where it was not expected every day, that the opposition would be given up, and where almost any odds would not have been laid, that it never came to a poll. Nor do I think any consultation would have been held about dropping the affair, if all the money subscribed against me, and more, had not been expended, and all probability of carrying the point entirely vanished. This is

my own firm opinion and belief, and yet, whoever reads my advertisement will see, that I have acted with the utmost candour, and given my opponents credit for such motives of retreat, as I am sure will do them no dishonour. The expense indeed would have been enormous, if the dispute had been carried through, and so far I own there is a saving to us both ; for I am convinced it would have amounted to above £20,000 a piece. This is a sum I should have felt severely, and yet after my offer to compromise had been rejected, I must and would have spent it, and could have done it without mortgaging my estate. I leave you to judge, what effect it would have had on Mr. Stuart.

“ After saying thus much, I am very far from having any personal dislike to Mr. Stuart ; on the contrary, I think he has been cruelly treated by some of his friends ; and if the prevailing party in this county will receive him without opposition, I shall be very well satisfied and glad of it. But if the whigs and dissenters, who are very numerous in this county, will make a point of opposing him, it will be impossible for me to declare for him and abandon those, who have supported me, to take part with those against whom they have supported me. This would not only put my own election in jeopardy, but be so ungrateful and disreputable a part for me to act, that it would in the same proportion make my assistance ineffectual to the person I should join with.

“ I am, &c.

H. B. LEGGE.”

Upon this answer, Mr. Legge received a verbal message from Lord B. by Mr. M., Dec. 12, 1759, the purport of which was, as it stands upon Mr. Legge's paper, "That he should bid adieu to the county of Southampton at the general election, and assist, as far as lay in his power, the P—— of W——'s nomination of two members;" to which message a categorical answer was required, and Mr. Legge sent the following in writing on the same day:—

"Mr. Legge, understanding it to be expected, that he (who never had engaged at all in the county of Southampton, if the intentions of L——r H—— had been in time communicated to him) shall not only refuse to be chosen himself at the next general election, but assist Lord Carnarvon and Mr. Stuart, in opposition to those who have supported Mr. Legge at the late election; is determined to submit to any consequences rather than incur so great a disgrace."

Lord B. sent a reply the same day, which Mr. M. wrote down from his mouth, in the following words:—

"The instant Mr. Legge represents himself as bound in honour not to decline standing for Hampshire, at the next general election, Lord B. is firmly persuaded that the P—— will by no means desire it of him; but he does out of real friendship to Mr. Legge beseech him to consider very seriously, whether, after triumphing over the P——'s inclinations at present, Lord B. has any method left of removing prejudices, that the late unhappy occurrences have strongly im-

pressed the P—— with, than by being enabled to assure him, that Mr. Legge will, as far as shall be in his power, co-operate with his R—— H——'s wishes at the next general election."

Mr. Legge returned the following final answer:—

"Though in fact Mr. Legge has been so unhappy as to find himself opposed to the P—— of W——'s inclinations, yet as to intention, Mr. Legge feels himself entirely blameless; and has too high a veneration for the P—— of W——'s justice to think he will conceive lasting prejudices against any man, for resisting those inclinations, of which he was totally ignorant.

"As Mr. Legge flatters himself, this consideration will induce the P—— of W—— to forgive his entering into engagements with the county of Southampton, he is certain that his R—— H—— will not condemn his adhering to those engagements, when entered into.

"God forbid Mr. Legge should be suspected of triumphing over the P—— of W——'s inclinations! The contrary was so much his intention, that from the moment he discovered which way those inclinations lay, there was no endeavour he did not use, to avoid the dispute with honour; nor did Mr. Legge exert himself, either in point of expense or personal application, till all compromise being rejected, he had no other part left to act.

"Mr. Legge is obliged to Lord B. for the friendship he expresses towards him. Surely his Lordship cannot doubt but that Mr. Legge would be extremely glad,

if he could find himself in such a situation, as would permit him to have the honour of obeying the P—— of W——'s commands, and seconding his wishes, without breaking the faith he has openly and publicly pledged to the county of Southampton. This if he were to do, he should forfeit all title to the P—— of W——'s countenance and protection, as certainly as he knows he should forfeit his R—— H——'s private good opinion."

Here the correspondence ended. King George II. died the year following, and at the end of the first session of parliament, after the accession of George III. Mr. Legge was dismissed, or as he chose to express it, *turned out*, after having served the crown and the public, in his department, during that session, with his usual ability and fidelity.

He had abundant resources in his own mind, to reconcile him to private life, and might have had his disgrace glossed over by a favour, which he declined. He said it was his duty to *submit*, but not to *approve*. He had the more valuable and independent satisfaction, soon after the event, to be unanimously chosen to represent the county of Southampton at the general election.

The circumstances of his last illness are no further connected with this account of him, than as some of them remarkably confirmed it, by exhibiting the natural serenity of a strong and good mind, in the last and greatest of all human distresses. As he was above

dissembling his satisfaction at the hopes of life, which frequently appeared, so he was above regretting the loss of longer life, or dreading the approach of death, when his case was pronounced desperate. He would reason about the little difference between dying at one time or another, or of this or that disease, with a most exemplary calmness, and with the same undisturbed state of mind, with which any philosopher in perfect health, ever wrote about death. And when the sentence of nature against him appeared quite irrevocable, he was a shining though melancholy instance of a truth, from which great conclusions have been drawn, that the life and vigour of the human mind, may continue to the last, unimpaired by the most extreme weakness and decay of body.

It would be too little to say of so excellent a man, that the memory of him will be honoured, during the lives of his survivors ; for, if eminent ability and integrity, manifested in offices of the highest trust and consequence ; if a zeal for public liberty, exerted on all proper occasions, with firmness and decency ; if all the talents and virtues which render men respectable and amiable, united in one conspicuous character, and applied to the benefit of mankind, give that character any chance for permanent fame after death, it may be confidently hoped, that Mr. Legge will, in the opinion of posterity, be entitled to one of the first places among the WORTHIES of the present age.

Anecdote by another hand.—It is a just remark, no matter who made it, that the wisest and best men are soonest forgotten. Every man's experience must furnish him with instances of this kind; and it has been recently exemplified in the little regard which has been paid to the memory of the late Mr. Legge, who has scarce ever been mentioned since his death but for the sake of some idle pun upon his name. Yet, though some perhaps might boast of more specious and ornamental accomplishments, yet few were possessed of more useful and respectable talents. Sir Robert Walpole, who was no bad judge of men, upon his early acquaintance with Mr. Legge, gave his opinion of him in very awkward, yet in very expressive terms. *He observed, that he never met with a man who had so little rubbish about him.* Mr. Legge's conduct justified this sentiment of Sir Robert's; for in every department he filled, he appeared to be perfect master of his office, and was at once clear, solid, judicious, and consistent. In short, Mr. Legge throughout supported the character of a sensible and moderate statesman, without being a tool to any party, or a slave to his own passions.

It may not be an unapt illustration of the correctness of the reference to Mr. Legge's classical attainments, contained in the preceding character of him by Dr. Butler, to add that the celebrated work of the pious and learned Dr. Lowth, successively Bishop of Oxford

and London, “De Sacra Poesi Hebræorum Prælectiones Academicæ Oxonii Habitæ,”—was dedicated to Mr. Legge in the following terms :

Honoratissimo viro
 Henrico Legge
 Rei Navalis Britannicæ Thesaurario
 Regiæ Majestati a secretioribus consiliis
 Robertus Lowth
 Quod se ab ineunte ætate perpetuâ
 amicitia complexus fuerit ; domi forisque,
 in otio, in negotio, in optimarum literarum
 studiis, comitem, participem, socium adhibuerit ;
 jucundissimæque consuetudine, singulari caritate,
 maximis beneficiis, devinxerit,
 Suas has prælectiones
 In Summi Amoris
 Animique Gratissimi Testimonium
 Lubens, Merito, Dat, Dicat, Dedicat.

Among the rectors of this parish, occurs the name of RICHARD MOUNTAGUE, afterward bishop of Chichester, and of Norwich, of whom we give the following memoir :—

This eminent and learned divine was born at Dorney, in the county of Buckingham, and was the son of the Rev. Laurence Mountague, vicar of that place. He was educated at Eton school, on the foundation, and was elected thence to King's College, Cambridge, in 1594, where he obtained a fellowship. After taking his bachelor's degree, in 1598, and that of master of arts in 1602, he entered into orders, and obtained this

living of Wootton-Courtenay, and also a prebend in the cathedral church of Wells. In 1610, he published in quarto "the two Invectives of Gregory Nazianzen against Julian," with the Notes of Nonnus; and assisted Sir Henry Savile in preparing his celebrated edition of the works of St. Chrysostom. In 1613, he was chosen a fellow of Eton College, and in the same year was inducted into the rectory of Stamford Rivers, in Essex, then in the gift of Eton College. On the death of Isaac Casaubon, he was requested by the king to write some animadversions on the Annals of Baronius, for which he was well qualified, having made ecclesiastical history very much his study from his earliest years. He had in fact begun to make notes on Baronius for his private use, which coming to the ears of the king, James I. himself no contemptible theologian, he intimated his pleasure on the subject to Mr. Mountague, who began to prepare for the press in 1615. He was at this time chaplain to his Majesty, and the following year was promoted to the deanery of Hereford, which he resigned soon after for the archdeaconry. In July, 1620, he proceeded bachelor of divinity, and with his fellowship of Eton held, by dispensation, a canonry of Windsor.

In 1621, he preached a sermon before the King at Windsor, in which there were some expressions supposed by a party of his hearers to favour the Romish doctrine of invocation of saints; and this obliged him to publish his sentiments more fully in a treatise "On

the Invocation of Saints," which, although he fancied it a complete defence, certainly gave rise to those suspicions which his enemies urged more fully against him. The same year he published his "*Diatribæ upon the first part of Mr. Selden's History of Tythes.*" In this work he endeavours, and certainly not unsuccessfully, to convict Selden of many errors, and of obligations to other authors which he has neglected to acknowledge. The King, at least, was so much pleased with it, as to order Selden to desist from the dispute. In 1622, he published in folio his *Animadversions on the Annals of Baronius.*

Two years after this he became involved in various controversies and imputations on his character as a divine, which, more or less, disturbed the tranquillity of the future part of his life. They were occasioned by his opposition to some catholic priests and jesuits who were executing their mission at Stamford-Rivers, of which place he was then rector; and to a publication by him in reply to those persons, which gave great offence to the Calvinists, at that time a very numerous and powerful party. Their indignation ran so high against him, that the parliament which met on the 18th of June, 1625, thought proper to take up the subject, and Mr. Mountague was ordered to appear before the House of Commons, and being brought to the bar, the speaker told him that it was the pleasure of the House, that the censure of his books should be postponed, but that in the interim he should be com-

mitted to the custody of the serjeant at arms; and he was afterward obliged to give security in the sum of two thousand pounds for his appearance. The King, however, was displeased with the proceedings of the parliament against our author; but notwithstanding very powerful intercession was made in Mr. Mountague's favour, in the parliament which met in 1626, the House of Commons resolved to exhibit articles of impeachment against him, but it does not appear, that this impeachment was ever carried up to the Lords.

These vindictive measures on the part of the parliament seem to have recommended him more strongly to the court, for in 1628, he was advanced to the bishopric of Chichester, on the death of one of his opponents, Dr. Carleton. With this preferment he was allowed to hold the rectory of Petworth, and having now a protection from his enemies, he applied himself closely to his favourite study of ecclesiastical history; and first published his "*Originum Ecclesiasticarum Apparatus*," at Oxford, in 1635, which was followed in the next year, by his "*Originum Ecclesiasticarum tomus primus*," Lond. folio. In 1638, on the promotion of Dr. Wren, to the bishopric of Ely, Bishop Mountague was translated to Norwich. Although now in a bad state of health, from an ague, he continued his researches into ecclesiastical history, and published a second volume, under the title of "*Theanthropicon; seu de Vita Jesu Christi Originum Ecclesiasticarum, libri duo. Accedit Græcorum versio, et Index utriusque*

partis." Lond. 1640. He died on the 13th of April, 1641, and was interred in the chancel of Norwich Cathedral. After his death appeared a posthumous work, "The Acts and Monuments of the Church before Christ incarnate," 1642, folio, with the singularity of a dedication to JESUS CHRIST, in latin, which he had himself prepared.

Bishop Mountague was allowed by his opponents to be a man of extensive learning, particularly in ecclesiastical history; but of an irritable temper; and from his attachment to the writings of the Fathers, holding some peculiar opinions, which were acceptable neither to churchmen nor sectarians. Fuller says of him, that "His great parts were attended with a tartness of writing; very sharp the nib of his pen, and much gall in the ink, against such as opposed him. However, such was the equability of this sharpness of his style, that he was impartial therein; be he ancient or modern writer, papist, or protestant, that stood in his way, they should equally taste thereof." Selden was one of those against whom he exercised not a little of this sharpness; and yet, which is a considerable testimony in his favour, "he owns him to have been a man well skilled in ancient learning."⁸⁹

⁸⁹ Compiled from Biograph. Britan.—Chalmers's Biograph. Dict.—Fuller's Worthies and Church History.—Harwood's Alumni Etonenses.

DUNSTER.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—ANCIENT AND PRESENT STATE.—BOROUGH.—
MARKET AND FAIRS.—CHARTERS.—WOOLLEN MANUFACTURE.—
STATISTICS.—RATES AND TAXES.—POPULATION.—CHARITIES.—
LIVING.—PERPETUAL CURACY.—CHURCH.—MONUMENTS.—HIS-
TORICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL PARTS OF CHURCHES.—
THE CROSS.—CHANCEL.—HIGH ALTAR.—NAVE.—SCREEN.—
ROOD LOFT.—FONT.—PORCH.—BENEDICTINE PRIORY.—THE
CASTLE.—HAMLETS.—ALCOMBE.—AVILL.—STANTON.—MARSH.
—MEMOIR OF THE REV. ROBERT CROSSE.—LOCAL SURNAME.—
GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE BARONIAL FAMILIES OF MOHUN
AND LUTTRELL.

THE parish of Dunster is bounded on the north by the Bristol Channel; on the east by Carhampton; on the south by the last-named parish and Luxborough, and by Carhampton, Timberscombe, Wootton-Courtenay, and Minehead on the west. By an actual survey made in 1822, for equalizing the poors' rates, this parish was found to contain three thousand and fourteen acres, of which sixty-nine are in Dunster Park, and partly covered with timber; of the remainder one thousand and seventy-seven acres are uncultivated commons; one of which is called the Salt Marsh, on which the ancient

burgesses of Dunster had a right each to depasture nine ewes and a ram; and the rest arable, meadow, pasture, and wood-land. The arable lands are of varied qualities, from very good to very bad; the meadows are mostly watered and are generally good; and the pasture lands, which are principally the marshes near the sea, are of fair quality. Collinson, in his History of the County of Somerset, says "The lands of this parish are generally pasture and meadow, and in goodness equal to most in the kingdom; particularly the vale east of the castle, and the rich common, containing five hundred acres, lying by the sea side. This common is overflowed by the high spring tides, and thereby rendered uncommonly fertile." This statement is decidedly wrong, the vale which is east of the castle is in the parish of Carhampton. The rich common he talks of, is called the Salt Marsh, and measures one hundred and twenty-four acres; so far from being fertilized by the overflowing of the high spring tides, it is seriously injured by their doing so, and in its present state is of very little value to any one. Nearly all the burgesses' rights of pasturage have been lost for want of exercising them; and when the above survey was made, not more than three or four persons claimed such burgess rights. The original deed of this grant, by the lord John de Mohun, is now in the possession of John Fownes Luttrell, esq. If, as could easily be done, and at an expense not exceeding £500, the sea were kept from overflowing this Salt Marsh, it would be worth, at

this time, 50*s.* per acre, while, in its present state, it would be dear at 5*s.* In Mr. Billingsley's Agricultural Survey of Somersetshire, he says ⁹⁰ "On the demesne of J. F. Luttrell, esq. of Dunster Castle, a large tract of land in a convertible course of tillage, is manured with water. The usual rotation of crops is, 1st, wheat on the ley; 2nd, turnips; 3rd, barley and artificial grasses. It is then suffered to remain in pasture two years; and during that time it is, at stated intervals, regularly flooded by a stream descending from the adjacent hills. This course is then renewed, and this has been the constant practice for many years. The produce has been in general very considerable, viz. of wheat 40 or 50 bushels, and of barley 50 or 60 bushels per acre." This tract, the vale to the east of the castle in Carhampton parish, is now, and has been for many years, laid down to grass; and is become excellent watered meadows or rich pastures, proving the truth of a remark made by that gentleman in the same work, that "If we appreciate land by its capacity to keep stock throughout the year, watered meadows are invaluable." There is a rabbit warren on a long narrow strip of ground lying between the marshes and the sea, on which is a warren house, and a brick kiln; it is about one hundred acres, has a stake net fishery belonging to it, and forms a part of the Hundred of Brewton. It is probable that it once belonged to the monastery of that place, founded by the Mohuns. The river, which is

⁹⁰ p. 266.

described in our account of Cutcombe, as coming from Dunkery, runs through a part of this parish, and, after going under four stone bridges, and turning two mills in it, divides it, for a considerable distance, from the parish of Carhampton, passes under two more stone bridges, and falls into the sea at a place called *the Hone*. Among the family and manerial records at Dunster Castle, there is a broken plea, supposed by Mr. Prynne to belong to the twelfth of Elizabeth, "of the Attorney General's concerning Dunster Haven," which must have been the mouth of this river, "within the manor of Dunster, that it always belonged to Thomas Luttrell and his ancestors, who took the profits thereof." It is not now, nor has it been for many years, used as a haven. Many salmon pass up this river in the fall of the year, to spawn, and in the summer great numbers of the young fish, called here *shorlands*, pass down; many of them, however, never reach the sea, being caught by the farmer's servants, when changing the course of the waters of the river to irrigate the lands; mullet are also found a little way up the Hone. The shore is flat, the beach is composed of sand and pebbles, and is often muddy, but near Minehead becomes fine and firm.

The principal hills in this parish are Grabbist or Grabhurst,⁹¹ Croydon, and Gallox Hill; between the first and the two last is the vale of Avill, being the commence-

⁹¹ Grabhurst, from the Mæso-Gothic *Graba*, the same as the Latin *fossa*, a moat or trench, and the Anglo-Saxon *hyrst*, a wood—that is, the entrenched wood.

ment of that valley which we described in our general account of the hundred, as passing down on the south-side of the former. At the entrance of this valley, upon a circular base of about ten acres, stands the Torr on which Dunster Castle is built; it is a conical hill of considerable altitude, of which we shall give a full description when speaking of the castle. At its foot to the north and west is the borough, post, and market town of Dunster. It is distant from Minehead two miles and a half; from London, one hundred and sixty-two; from Bridgwater, twenty-four; from Taunton, twenty-two; and from Bristol, by way of Bridgwater, sixty; but there is a road six or seven miles nearer by leaving the coach road at Putsham, crossing the Parret at Combwich ferry, and entering the coach road again at Paulet. This road is much used by drovers and cattle dealers.

The town of Dunster consists principally of four streets, viz. Fore Street, formerly called North Street, Church Street, West Street, and Water or Gallox Street. There were more formerly, and the following often occur in old feoffments: St. Thomas's Street, St. George's Street, and the Bailey, that is the vicinity of the castle. An old wooden town hall, and a long range of shops and shambles, formerly occupied the middle of the Fore Street, so called from its situation in front of the castle; but they were taken down in 1825, and a new and convenient market-house built by John Fownes Luttrell, esq. in a line with the eastern side of

the street. Many of the timbers of the old market-house when taken down, were found to have been perforated by cannon balls. At the northern end of the street, an octagonal building, formerly the yarn market, still remains; it is a curious structure of wood covered with slates, one of its timbers has been pierced by a cannon shot from the castle. The streets are macadamized or paved, and there are some good houses here; but, generally speaking, the town is very irregularly built, many of the houses are low and thatched, others have penthouses over their doors and windows, and some have their chimneys towards the street; yet nearly all of them are rough cast and white-washed, and have a clean and comfortable appearance; their number is about one hundred and thirty. Here is an excellent inn, which tradition says was once a religious house; it is called the Luttrell Arms. From the garden, and its eastern windows, are fine views both of the sea and land. There are four other inns, and twelve or thirteen shops. No trade is now carried on here, save such as is usual in agricultural districts; but once it was considerably engaged in the manufacture of kersey cloths. The inhabitants have a tradition that twenty-four master clothiers from hence used to attend the fairs of Bristol and Exeter. The cloths called *Dunsters*, are mentioned in an Act of Parliament of James I. chap. 2, which enacts "That every broad cloth, commonly called Tauntons, Bridgwaters, and *Dunsters*, made in the western part of Somersetshire, or elsewhere, of like making, shall con-

tain, being thoroughly wet, between twelve and thirteen yards, and in breadth seven quarters of a yard at the least, and being well scoured, thicked, milled, and fully dried, shall weigh thirty pounds the cloth at least." The only memorials that now remain of the trade in this place are, some fulling mills, in a state of decay, the ruins of a factory at Frackford, the parochial books, and the terraces on the south-side of Grabhurst, where the tenter racks for drying the cloths stood. A fair is held here on Whit-Monday, and the market is on Friday. It was once the most considerable one in the western part of the county; at that time the female inmates of farm houses, in this and the neighbouring districts, from the mistress to the apprentice maid, and the wives and daughters of the labourers, were employed, when not occupied about their household affairs or farms, in spinning their master's wool into yarn by hand, which was regularly carried to this market, and sold to the clothiers here, and others who came from Old Cleeve, Williton, Putsham, Wiveliscombe, and other places, who constantly attended to purchase it. Dealers in such articles as were then generally bought by farmers, also used to attend, and from them, and the shops, they purchased such things as they wanted for their families and farms. It is not for the writer of such a work as this to enter into general or local politics, but the statement of a few facts, the consequence of one or both cannot be amiss. At the time we are speaking of, from sixty to one hundred years

since, the farms were generally small ; butchers' meat ranged from $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. ; wheat averaged about 4s. per bushel ; and the labourer's wages were the same then as now, 1s. per day, except that most farmers now allow their labourers to have a certain quantity of grist corn for the consumption of their families, for 6s. per bushel, whatever price it reaches in the market ; but when wheat is 1s. or 2s. a bushel above that price, it is of very little benefit to *some labourers*, whose masters let them have grist corn of very inferior quality. At that time the landlords paid the parochial and other taxes, but they were not then teased every rent day for abatement. Neither did the parish rates then bear any thing like the same proportion to the rent which they do now. In a parish where the lands, about eighty years since, averaged about 17s. or 18s. per acre per annum, the poors' rates were about £70 a year ; the average value of the same parish is now about 30s. per acre, and the poors' rates range between £500 and £600 a year. At that time none were idle who could and would work. At this time many persons, especially women and children, cannot get any one to employ them half their time. The race of the old English small farmer, of the time we are speaking, is now, in many places, nearly extinct ; the work of his farm was generally done by himself, his family, and jobbing workmen, to whom he paid good wages, while the work on the large farms was performed by constant 1s. a day labourers ; a scanty subsistence for whose

families was made up from the poors' rates, to which the small farmer was an equal contributor in proportion to the value of his farm, so that he had actually, not only to support all who laboured on his own little farm, but to assist in maintaining those who worked on the larger farm of his more fortunate neighbour. To speak plainly, he helped to pay the great farmers' wages. The major part of the descendants of this race of men have merged into the mass of common labourers; some few have advanced to the rank of large farmers, and others have emigrated to distant countries. The labourers of that day made it their laudable boast and pride "that they had never had any thing from the poor's rates," "no help from the parish." The same class of the present day endeavour to get as much as they can from the parish officers, they go to the parish on the slightest occasion, and often without any occasion at all. The young labourers of that day had a chance by industry in their youth, and by keeping from an early matrimonial engagement of saving enough to take a small farm, and provide comfortably for old age. The young labourers of the present day have no hope but the poors' rates, they often get married very young, and before they have made any provision for that state, and, as their family increases, so does the charge on the parochial funds. But we must return from this digression to Dunster market, which is now dwindled to almost nothing; three or four butchers and two or three country-women with baskets of poultry and

butter, are the only vendors that now attend this once celebrated market; except on a few Fridays in the spring, when farmers purchase their artificial grass seeds, then, as a very old inhabitant once remarked, "it has a child-like resemblance of what it once was."

The following is a copy of the charter of the Lord Reginald de Mohun, granting this market and fair to the burgesses of Dunster.

"Know all men, present and to come, that I, Reginald de Mohun, have given, granted, and by this my present charter confirmed, to Hugh Rondevin, Robert Luke, Robert Hunter, Roger Priver, Robert Chipera, and Simon Cox, my burgesses of Dunster, and their heirs, to have and to hold for ever, of me and my heirs, a fair and market in the street called North Street, freely, quietly, and wholly, without removal or impediment by me or my heirs. On account of this grant and concession from me and my heirs to them and their heirs, to hold for ever, the aforesaid burgesses have given to me one tun of wine of the price of forty shillings, as an acknowledgment thereof. And for the assurance of these things, I have affixed my seal to this writing, these being witnesses: the Lord John de Reigny; Rogo Fitz Simon; William Everard; Richard de Holne; Roger Pollard; Robert de Cogstans; Geoffrey de Kytenore; Geoffrey de Luccombe, and others.

The seal is of green wax, with the arms of Mohun, *Gules*, a dexter arm, habited with a maunch, *Ermine*,

the hand holding a fleur de lys, *Or*, and circumscribed,
SIGILL. REGINALDI. DE. MOHUN.

The following three charters were granted to the burgesses of Dunster, by the Lord John de Mohun, who died in the fourth of Edward III., (1329.)

I. To all to whom these presents shall come, John de Mohun, greeting in the LORD. Know ye that in consideration of twenty shillings in silver paid to me in hand, I have granted and confirmed, and for ever for me and my heirs quit-claimed, to all the burgesses of my town of Dunster, and their heirs, all the liberties to the same town, which the lord Reginald de Mohun, my grandfather, formerly gave and granted by his charter to the said burgesses and their heirs, in like manner as the said charter in all points testifies, without any claim being otherwise made thereupon. I also grant to the said burgesses and their heirs that they may choose one fitting and faithful person as bailiff of the said borough, to receive, present, and faithfully answer for all attachments made within the said borough. And if the said bailiff for the time being shall misconduct himself against the said lord, or the said burgesses, or their heirs, he the said bailiff shall make satisfaction to his lord, according to the custom of the borough; and the said burgesses in his place may choose another fitting person as bailiff for the service of the lord.

In testimony of which to this present charter I have affixed my seal, these being witnesses; the lord John

de Breteshe, knight ; Philip de Luccombe ; Richard de Cloudesham ; John de Holne ; Geoffrey de Kytenore ; Geoffrey le Tort ; William Everard ; William Pyron ; Robert de Laputte, and others.

II. To all &c., John de Mohun, Lord of Dunster, greeting in the LORD. Know all men that I have given, granted, and released for myself and my heirs and all other the lords of Dunster, to the custodes and bailiffs of Dunster, and all the burgesses of my town of Dunster, existing for ever, twenty flagons of beer, out of the twenty-four formerly due to me from any brewery. I will also and grant for me and my heirs, and all other the said lords, to the custodes and bailiffs whosoever they may be, that henceforth we will not take or retain from the brewery of any person in the said town, other than the said four flagons of beer, as I used to have them according to the custom of former times, and those flagons of beer which the bailiffs find for sale at the time of any inquisition.⁹²

In testimony of which, these are witnesses ; the lord Henry de Glaston, knt. ; Ralph le Tort ; Geoffrey de Locumbe ; William de Kytenore ; William de Holne ; Robert Everard ; Geoffrey de Avill, and others.

Given at Dunster, on the Sunday next after the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, in the seventeenth year of the reign of King Edward II.

III. To all, &c., John de Mohun, lord of Dunster,

⁹² Warranty against all persons.

greeting. Know that we have received of my burgesses of the town of Dunster, forty pounds, in the which sum they were bound to me, for the tolls of things sold in the said town, which sum of forty pounds we acknowledge to have been well and lawfully paid, and the aforesaid burgesses and their heirs to be for ever quit. Given at Dunster the Monday next before the feast of St. Margaret, in the eighteenth year of the reign of King Edward II.

The seal is the arms of Mohun; *Or*, a cross engrailed, *sable*. The circumscription, **SI. JOHANNIS DE MOVN.**

King Edward III., in the first year of his reign, (1327), addressed the following warrant to the bailiffs of Dunster, and to the mayors and bailiffs of the principal towns in the kingdom.

“The king to his faithful the bailiffs of Dunster, greeting.”⁹³

“Forasmuch as we will not that any abbot, prior, brother of the order of friars preachers, minors, of Mount Carmel, or any other religious person, of whatsoever condition or state existing, shall take himself out of our kingdom in these days without our special licence;

“We command you that you do not permit any

⁹³ *Clans. R. 1 Edw. III. p. 1. m. 15. d. in Turr. Lond.—Fædera, vol. ii. p. 701. edit. 1821.*

religious person of this description to depart out of the said kingdom by the aforesaid sea-port, without licence as aforesaid.

“Witness the king at Huntingdon, the 3rd of April, 1327.”

In the twenty-ninth of Henry II. (1183) Richard, provost of Dunster, was amerced in the King's Exchequer in the sum of 106s. 8d. for exporting corn out of England without licence.⁹⁴

In the twentieth of Edward III. Dunster was rated to furnish three armed men for the wars.⁹⁵ And four years afterward the bailiffs of the same town were ordered to send to the king's army one man at arms.⁹⁶

By an inquisition taken in the thirty-sixth of Edward III. (1362) it was found that it would not be to the damage of the king to grant licence to William le Tailleur, of Dunster, and Thomas de Rivers, to enable them to enfeoff the commonalty of the town of Dunster, with one messuage and twenty-four acres of land, &c. in Carhampton, to hold to them and their successors, burgesses of the said town for ever.

In 1535, the monastery of Old Cleeve had certain annual rents issuing out of Dunster, amounting to

⁹⁴ Richardus Præpositus de Dunestore r. c. de 106s. 8d. pro blado misso extra Angliam.—Mag. Rot. 29 Hen. 2. rot. 3. Dors. et Sumers.

⁹⁵ Rymer, Fœdera, vol. 5. p. 493.

⁹⁶ Ibid. 24 Edw. 3.

£4 7*s.* out of which there was paid to Dunster Castle 4*s.* for the fee of Henry Dovell the bailiff, 6*s.* 8*d.* and in alms distributed for the souls of the family of Pyro and other founders, 17*s.* yearly.⁹⁷

Anciently, like other places under castle ward, Dunster assumed the name of a borough; and the burgesses possessed certain lands, and had a common seal. It formerly sent members to parliament, but we only retain the names of two of its representatives, namely, Walter Maurice and Thomas Cartere, who were returned in the thirty-fourth of Edward III. (1360.) It also enjoyed other borough privileges in the same reign. These rights are now lost. A part of the parish of Dunster, at and near the villages of Stanton and Alcombe, is within the borough of Minehead; and the householders who reside there vote at the election of members to serve in parliament for that borough.

On Gallox, or Gallows Hill, in that part of the park which is in this parish, there is a circular entrenched camp, with a rampart of earth and a fosse, supposed to be British.

On the 21st of Feb. 1735, a transport, coming from Ireland with troops, was wrecked off this coast, and nineteen soldiers, a boy, and two women were taken up dead in this parish, and buried in the churchyard the next day.

⁹⁷ Valor Ecclesiast.

Dunster is said to have been a place of great note, and a fortress of the West Saxon Kings. Its original name, *Torre*,⁹⁸ signified a fortified tower, but in succeeding ages it was called *Dunestorre*, the tower of the hill, and by contraction Dunster, the additional *dun*, implying a ridge of mountains stretching out lengthwise on the sea coast.

In this parish are three hamlets: Alcombe, Marsh, and Stanton, and besides the manor of Dunster, which belongs to John Fownes Luttrell, esq. and has always been an appendage to the castle, there are three other manors, Alcombe, Stanton, and Avill.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £238 5s. 7d.; and in 1785, £206 12s. In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £518 10s. at 3s. 4d. in the pound.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, as assessed to the property tax, was—

In the titbing of Dunster	£1886
In the titbing of Avill	553
	<hr/>
	£2439

⁹⁸ *Tbr* is a primitive word, and is enumerated by Mr. Bryant, in his List of Radicals. It signifies either a hill or a tower, and many places in Greece had it in their composition. It was sometimes expressed *Tur*, as in Gibraltar. Towers of old were frequently light-houses, and it is not at all improbable that the *Torre* here mentioned was an ancient fire-tower or light-house for the guidance of the navigation of the great æstuary of the Severn.

In 1818, the county rate was—

For the tithing of Dunster.....	£1	19	3½
For the tithing of Avill.....	0	11	6¼
	2	10	9¾

The land-tax charged upon

The tithing of Dunster, is ..	£105	7	9
And upon that of Avill	32	15	4
	£138	3	1

According to Mr. Collinson, the number of houses in the parish in 1791, was 190, and of inhabitants about 850, many houses being then unoccupied. In the beginning of the last century, there were nearly 400 houses here.

In the year 1801, this parish, including the before-mentioned hamlets, contained 183 inhabited houses; 36 uninhabited houses: 772 persons, namely, 370 males, (of whom 115 were employed in agriculture) and 402 females.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Dunster stands thus:—

Houses inhabited	179
Uninhabited	9
Building	0
Families.....	183

Of whom were employed

In agriculture	84
In trade	78
All others	21

Persons 895 :—viz.

Males.....	434
Females.....	461
Increase in 20 years	123

In 1815, there were one hundred and twelve poor in this parish; and in 1776, there was a work-house which would accommodate thirty persons.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons in 1818, the Rev. G. H. Leigh stated that there is no school in this parish, and that the poorer classes would be grateful for any means of education afforded them.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS.

In the Fifteenth Report of the Commissioners of Charities, printed in 1826, by order of the House of Commons, there is the following account of charitable donations made to the poor of the parish of Dunster:—

“There appears to be a sum of £800 belonging to this parish, but how this money has been derived, cannot, now, with any certainty be collected.

“It has been in the hands of some of the Luttrell family of Dunster Castle, for a very long period. An entry respecting this money is found in the overseer's book of this parish, for the year 1752, to the following effect:—‘At a vestry held in the parish church of Dunster, the 26th June, 1752, according to public notice given for that purpose; it is unanimously agreed, that

the sum of £800 charity money, reputed to be given by *Francis Eld*, esquire, one of the masters of the Court of Chancery, for the use of the poor of the said parish, shall continue in the hands of Henry Fownes Luttrell, esq. he paying for the loan of the same, the sum of £3 10s. for every £100 by the year, until the same shall be fully satisfied and paid.'

In a subsequent page of the same book, the following receipt is entered :—"Received the 21st of October, 1768, of Henry Fownes Luttrell, esq. by payment of George Gale, £27 4s. 8d. for one year's, wanting ten days, interest of £800 in his hands, belonging to the poor of the parish of Dunster, and due the 8th instant, when the Dunster Castle estate was discharged from the said debt; and the parishioners, at a vestry held for that purpose, on the 24th of April, 1764, agreed to leave the said principal money in the hands of the said Mr. Luttrell, and took his bond for the same, dated the said 8th day then instant, October, at three and a half per cent.; I say received the above £27 4s. 8d. for the use of the poor of the said parish of Dunster,—*John Groves*."

The above-mentioned bond was cancelled in the year 1817, and a fresh bond taken from John Fownes Luttrell, esq. the executor of the above-named obligor, dated the 24th of March in that year; upon which said last-mentioned security the said sum still remains invested.

The first entry of any payment of interest upon the

said sum of £800 is made in the overseer's book for the year 1743; and from that time, the interest of the said principal sum appears to have been regularly received and brought to account by the overseers of the said parish, together with the poor rates, as general parish stock.

MRS. PYNCOMBE'S CHARITY.

This parish is one of the places where Mrs. Gertrude Pyncombe⁹⁹ had property, and as such became entitled to a portion of her bounty, as directed by her.¹

Mrs. Pyncombe having but a very small property in Dunster, it seems to have been thought sufficient to give the relief, under her bounty, to one poor person only in that parish. The treasurer to the trustees is Mr. Charter, of Bishop's Lydeard, who states, that for twenty years, during which period he has held the above

⁹⁹ There were two families in Devonshire of the name of Pyncombe, one of South-Molton, and the other of Welsbear. The Pyncombes of Welsbear became extinct in 1672, when one of the co-heiresses married into the family of Tucker. Mrs. Gertrude Pyncombe, the last of this branch, who died unmarried about 1730, left a considerable estate for the augmentation of poor benefices, the endowment of schools, and other charitable purposes. A detailed account of these benefactions will be found in the Third Report of the Commissioners of Charities, printed by order of the House of Commons. Mr. William Pyncombe, the last of the South-Molton branch, died in 169 .

The Pyncombes bore for their arms—*Per Pale, Gules and Azure*, three helmets, *Argent*.—Crest, A Cubit Arm, issuing, vested, *Vert*, trimmed and gloved, *Or*, holding a spear, proper, the head, *Argent*.—Lysons's Devon, part I. p. 208.

¹ See the Third Report on Charities, p. 55.

office, he has paid that sum to a poor widow of Dunster parish, and that as far as he can trace, this has been the practice."

The living of Dunster is in the deanery of the same name, and although called in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* and by Ecton and Bacon, a vicarage, is a stipendiary curacy, and is valued in the king's books at £4 13s. 4d. which is the same sum that the prior of Dunster allowed the stipendiary vicar in 1535. In 1292, this church was valued at twelve marks. The clear yearly value was certified to the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty at £9 16s. In 1717, Sir Hugh Stewkley was the impropiator of the great tithes and patron of the living. It was afterward in the patronage of Lord Stawel, and on the death of the last lord in 1825, it passed to his only daughter and heiress, Lady Sherborne, whose husband, Lord Sherborne, sold it to the present John Fownes Luttrell, esq. in whom the presentation now is. The Rev. Thomas Fownes Luttrell is the present incumbent. Mr. Luttrell pays the curate £20 per annum; and Queen Anne's Bounty produces about £20 a year more, besides the surplice fees.

There was an ordination of the vicarage of Dunster made by Bishop Oliver King, which was afterward cancelled; and a new one made in 1512, by Bishop Hadrian de Castello, which appointed that the vicar and his successors should have their commons and repasts, and a fire in the winter season, with the prior

of the cell of Dunster, and with the monks at their table, sitting next to the said monks, but never getting higher; at the sole charge and expense of the said cell. And that he should likewise receive an annual stipend of £4 from the prior, and should have a chamber adjoining to the church-yard of the parish church of Dunster, together with a certain meadow, and a rent of two shillings for the use of certain vats belonging to the fulling business, as also the rent of two shillings for a certain house of ancient time belonging and appertaining to the vicars. And that he should likewise have all the contingent contributions of the parishioners for the rehearsing and publishing the bead-roll,² after the service of high mass in the church of Dunster every Lord's day.³

DUNSTER CHURCH.

The church is dedicated to St. George, and is built in the form of a cross, consisting of a transept, chancel, nave, side aisles, and a tower. It is a large gothic structure, being one hundred and sixty-eight feet in length, and fifty-five in breadth. The transept now serves as the chancel, and is separated from the nave by an elegant oak screen, about eleven feet high, for-

² The *bead-roll* was a list of those persons, whether grantees, benefactors, or brethren, whose names were to be mentioned in the public prayers of the church. This list or roll was read over to prepare the audience for such a commemoration.

³ Regist. Wallen.

merly supporting the rood loft, and ornamented with finely-carved vine branches' and grapes, and in the upper part with oak leaves and branches. This screen contains fourteen arches of elaborate tracery.

The stairs leading to the rood-loft are in a turret on the south side of the church, the door-way of which is now walled up.

There is a brass chandelier of eighteen lights, inscribed, "Gaven by the late Jone Brewer, ten pounds towards this branch. John Hossum, Benj. Escott, churchwardens, 1740."

In the windows of the north aisle are some remains of ancient stained glass, namely, the head of St. James of Compostella; a small whole length of a king, the head defaced; the arms of Luttrell, *Or*, a bend between six martlets, *Sable*, and an abbot's crozier, with a scroll, inscribed,

331. Bonesterre, Abbas de Clitha.

The name of *William Seylake* occurs in the list of abbots of Cleeve, communicated to Tanner's Notitia by Browne Willis: and he was probably the same man, deriving the cognomen of Dunster merely from the place of his birth, a usual practice with the religious. The date of his institution being 1419, and his death or removal, 1421, is a very strong argument in proof of the conjecture respecting the building of the church.

On each side of the entrance to the transept there is a niche which appears to have contained a statue, and on the east side of the transept leading into the south

ail of the old church, there is a fine horse-shoe shaped arch, with very rich carved oak gates, which the late vicar, Mr. Leigh, had white washed !

There is a painting over the communion table representing the crucifixion, but not in good style, by Mr. Phelps. The nave is divided into three ailes, but that on the north does not extend the whole length. The south aile is formed by four small clustered columns, supporting five bluntly pointed arches. The windows are divided into three lights each ; and the tracery in the upper part is hexagonal, or of that style called by Mr. Rickman, perpendicular.

The chancel was the original church belonging to the priory, and was also used by the vicar for the celebration of divine service till the year 1499, when a dispute took place between the monks and the parishioners. This being referred to the abbot of Glastonbury, Dr. Thomas Gilbert, and Thomas Tremayle, as arbitrators, it was agreed that the vicar and his successors should have their choir distinct from that of the prior and monks, to be erected and repaired ; and, if it should so need, to be rebuilt at the expense of the parishioners, namely, in the nave of the church at the altar of St. James the apostle, which is situated on the south-side of the door leading from the choir of the monks into the nave of the church. This part is now called *the old church*, and has a north and south aile, formed by very bluntly pointed arches. It is shut up, stripped of all its furniture, and totally neglected. It contains a

number of fine monumental tombs of the families of Mohun and Luttrell, which are now perishing with their owners in the dust, and exhibiting a strong rebuke to the vanity of human greatness.

Oh! that the voice of propriety and common decency, the voice that would command respect to the sacredness of the place, would call upon the living to honour the remains of the illustrious dead, then should we behold the chancel of Dunster Church restored to its former venerable appearance, and the monuments of two once baronial families renovated by a judicious and well-timed expenditure. The restoration of the table monument of the Lord John de Mohun and his lady, and of their effigies, with the necessary reparations of those of the Luttrells, a new floor, and some other repairs, would reflect that honour upon the living which we are so justly anxious to see paid to the memory of the dead.

The tower is ninety feet high, rising from the centre of the fabric, or at the intersection of the cross, and is supported by four massive pillars. It is embattled at the top, and has low broken pinnacles at the corners; it contains a clock, chimes, which play the 113th Psalm tune, at the hours of one, five, and nine; and eight fine-toned musical bells, the oldest of which bears the date 1668, and the newest 1782. The tenor weighs twenty-two cwt.

It is the generally-received opinion that this church was built by King Henry VII. in reward for the services

of the Dunster men at the battle of Bosworth Field. I will not stop to dispute the claim to valour and devotion of the Dunster men and of the family of Luttrell to the house of Lancaster; but I shall certainly dispute the claim of Henry VII. to be considered as the founder of Dunster Church. The opinion here alluded to, I think had its rise in Warton's *Observations on Spenser's Fairy Queen*, but its fallacy will be easily estimated by the attentive observer when he compares the plain, meagre, and clumsy style of this tower with the finely-proportioned and delicately-ornamented architecture of the first period of the TUDORS. There is nothing in the appearance of any part of this church to give the slightest authority for such an opinion; but on the contrary, there are the strongest reasons for asserting that it was erected more than seventy years before the accession of Henry VII.; namely, about the latter end of the reign of Henry V. or the commencement of that of Henry VI. In the year 1419, (eighth Henry V.) William Pynson, by his last will, dated on Wednesday, the feast of St. Valentine the martyr, bequeaths his body to be buried in the church of St. George the martyr, at Dunster, before the image of St. Christopher; and also left forty shillings towards the new bell-tower, and twenty shillings towards one of the new bells, with six shillings and eight-pence towards the new rood loft in the said church [*ad opus novi solarii Sancte Crucis in dicta ecclesiâ.*]

But the date of the building of the tower is more

certainly known from a cœval agreement found in the church a few years ago, and endorsed by a recent hand; "The building of the tower of Dunster, in the twenty-first year of the reign of King Henry VI. 1443. This building was undertaken by John Marys, of Stogursey, Somerset, and an engineer from Bristol, to be completed in three years." The indorsement was copied at the discovery of this interesting document, but the agreement itself has unfortunately been mislaid. When Mr. Hamper, of Birmingham, was on a visit to his friend, the late Rev. G. H. Leigh, of Dunster, in 1808, the then Mr. Luttrell, at his request, examined his papers at the castle, for the purpose of recovering this document, but was not so fortunate as to meet with it.*

The font is ancient. It is octagonal and handsome, and is sculptured on the sides in quatrefoils alternately with double roses. The quatrefoil recesses are filled with escutcheons, bearing the emblems of the crucifixion; the monogram I. H. S. in a crown of thorns; the spear, cross, ladder, sponge, hammer, nails, and pincers; there are also the five wounds of Christ represented by the hands, feet, and heart, alternately with double roses. It is just possible that some person on seeing the latter ornament, sometimes called the Tudor rose, from its being represented double, to typify the union of the two conflicting houses of York and Lancaster, might be led to suppose that the alleged bounty

* *Gent. Mag.* Oct. 1808.

of Henry VII. might have been applied to the furniture of the church, though not to the building itself. But even this is too weak a supposition ; for the double, or Tudor rose, is too common an ornament in ecclesiastical architecture to justify such an opinion.

The roof of Dunster Church was set on fire between thirty and forty years since by some workmen engaged in repairing the lead work. The fire was fortunately discovered by Mr. Crang, a surgeon, who, on rising early to attend a sick patient, was the means of procuring assistance ; the flames were got under with difficulty, and the repairs cost the parish a considerable sum.

On the 18th of October, in the eighth of Elizabeth, a complaint was made by the inhabitants of Dunster, under their seals, against Mr. Stewkley, for allowing their curate but £8 per annum for officiating in his cure, which they say was too little. The original complaint is in Mr. Luttrell's possession.

MONUMENTS.

There was a chantry in the church of Dunster at the altar of St. Laurence, which was endowed with divers burgages in that town, valued in 1535 at £5 1s. 8d. annually, out of which there was paid a yearly rent to Dunster Castle of twenty shillings. At the dissolution, John Bailey was the priest of this chantry.

In the chapel of this chantry, which is on the north-

side of the old church, there is an ancient table monument, under a canopied arch, on which lie the cumbent effigies greatly mutilated, of a knight and his lady of the Mohuns. These effigies are of alabaster, procured from the beds of that stone near Watchet. The figure of the knight is almost destroyed, so that only the bust and part of the lower limbs remain. He wears a helmet, around which there is a garland of vine leaves, "and so," says Leland, "were lords of old time said to be buried." The lady lies at his left hand, and is represented in a close boddice, with a loose robe, and a reticulated head dress, with her feet resting on a dog, the emblem of nuptial fidelity. The whole is unfortunately so much broken and decayed as totally to preclude a minute description.

The knight I conjecture to be John de Mohun the second, as in the account of the possessions of the priory, there is the sum of 6s. 8d. charged as being annually distributed in alms to certain poor persons for the soul of John de Mohun. Close to this monument, there yet remains the original altar, which is probably the same as that mentioned by Collinson, dedicated to St. Laurence, at which the chantry priest offered up prayers for the souls of the deceased knight and his lady.

It is further probable that this is the monument of the Lord John de Mohun, the second of that name, who died in the fourth of Edward III. (1330) and his lady, Auda, the daughter of Sir Robert de Tibetot, for the following reasons:—1. That his father, the first

John de Mohun, had two wives, both of whom would have been represented on his monument; 2. That the third John de Mohun died in his father's life-time, and it is not likely that this monument should have been erected for him, because he was never in possession of the baronial estates; 3. The lady of the fourth John de Mohun, who died in the sixth of Henry IV. (1404) was buried in Canterbury Cathedral, where she has a handsome monument. I am, therefore, of opinion that this monument should be appropriated to John de Mohun the second, and its architectural style will bear me out in this opinion.

On the south side of the old church there is a stately mural monument of various kinds of marble, whereon lie the recumbent effigies of one man in armour, and two women; another man in a kneeling attitude, in clerical costume. These are memorials of different members of the Luttrell family.

In the south-aisle of the old church, there is placed a handsome monument of white and grey marble, inscribed with the name and character of Anne, the wife of Francis Luttrell, and daughter and heiress of Charles Stucley, of Plymouth, esq. who died on the 30th of October, 1780, aged 21.

In a recess of the wall, on the south-side of the old church, under a plain arch, on a platform raised a little above the floor, lies the recumbent effigy of one of the

Everards, "a family," says Leland, "set up by the Mohuns," of whom they held lands in Carhampton and Dunster by the service of defending a certain part of the castle. This monument has been the occasion of more than one mistake. Collinson mentions it as "the figure of one of the domestics of the Luttrell family," which must be looked upon as one of his fancies; or more likely a fancy of Mr. Rack's, who assisted him in his survey of the respective parishes of the county. But whilst he was describing this effigy as representing a domestic of the Luttrells, he, in the same page, speaks of it "as lying between two arches *in the church-yard*;" following Leland in the same error, who mentions this effigy, "as lying between two arches or buttresses *in the church-yard*." When the author of this work was at Dunster in September, 1828, he was particularly desirous of obtaining some information relating to the monument mentioned by Leland and Collinson as lying in the church-yard, but the oldest persons in the parish could not remember either ever having seen or heard any thing of such an effigy or tomb.

There is a flat grave-stone in the floor of the old church, before where the high altar once stood, with the figure of a lady engraven upon it, having a canopy over her head, and round the edge the following inscription:—

**"Ora te queso pro a'r'a d'ne Elizabeth
Lutterell que obiit primo die mensis Sep=**

tembris anno d'ni MCCCCs'io nona-
ges'io tertio—Nunc r'pe te petimus miserer'
qs' qui be'isti redim'e p'ditos noli dampnare
redemptos."

The first division of this inscription is too obvious to need illustration. The latter clause may be read "Nunc, CHRISTE, te petimus miserere: que sumus qui venisti redimere perditus, noli dampnare redemptos."

In English thus:—"Pray I beseech you for the soul of the Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, who died September the 1st, in the year of our Lord 1493. Now, O CHRIST, we pray Thee be merciful; Thou, who wert able to redeem the lost, do not condemn those whom Thou hast redeemed."

This lady was Elizabeth, the wife of Sir James Luttrell, knt. who was mortally wounded in the second battle of St. Alban's, 1461. She was the daughter and heiress of Sir William Courtenay, eldest brother of Sir Edward Courtenay, of Haccombe, who in the first of Henry VII. became earl of Devonshire. But Lodge, in the Peerage of Ireland, says that she was the daughter of Sir Philip Courtenay, and her mother the daughter of Lord Hungerford. She was aunt of William Courtenay, earl of Devonshire, who married a daughter of King Edward IV.

It is remarkable that both Leland and Collinson speak of this grave-stone as being in Carhampton Church. The mistake in Leland may be accounted for by supposing that the transcriber of his manuscript of

the Itinerary has misplaced the paragraph ; but there can be no excuse for Collinson, in copying that error, for if he had inspected the inside of the old church, he could not have failed to have seen this stone.

In the old church, there is a large vault belonging to the family of Luttrell, in which are twenty-seven coffins, most of them charged with inscriptions.

There is also a brass and some other monumental remains in the chancel, to the memory of different members of the Stewkley family, who were formerly owners of, and lived at, Marsh, in this parish.

In the south-aisle of the present parish church there is a brass plate thus inscribed :—

**“Of yo^r charite pray for the soules of
John Wyther, and Agnes his wyf, and
John Wyther their eldest sone, whose
bodys restyeth under this stone anno d'ni
M^{ill}mo CCCCL^{xxxxv}ij penultimo die
Septe'bris expectando generalem resurrec-
t'onem mortuor' et vita' eterna' Amen.”**

On another brass :—

**“ANAGR. AMAROR. AMORIS.
HUC. MODÒ. TUNC ILLUC. PASSIM.
VESTIGIA FLECTES.
AST. HIC. IN. ÆTERNUM. SISTE MARIA PEDEM.
NE DUBITES. DUBITUR QUICQUID.
DEERAT. TIBI. VIRGO.
DESPICE. MORTALEM. CONJUGE.
DIGNA. DEO.”**

"Here lyeth the body of Mary y^e daughter of John Norris, late customer of Minehead, who dyed 22 of March, 1673."

Here are three ancient slabs with crosses, the memorials probably of some of the priors, removed from the old church.

In the nave there are the following monumental inscriptions :—" Mrs. Mary Parker, May 14, 1799, aged 87."

"Betty, wife of John Clement, May 10, 1774, aged 37.—Henry Clement, March 13, 1704."

"Mary Wilkins, Feb. 5, 1798."

"Edward, son of William and Mary Sealy, Feb. 7, 1693, aged 3.—Justine, mother of William Sealy, April 5, 1695, aged 81.—Elizabeth, daughter of William and Mary Sealy, June 24, 1696, aged 3.—Mary, wife of William Sealy, Nov. 9, 1702, aged 44.—William, son of William and Mary Sealy, April 28, 1705, aged 23."

"Mary, wife of Francis Chaplin, and daughter of William and Mary Sealy, Dec. 4, 1737, aged 57.—Elizabeth, daughter of Francis and Mary Chaplin, May 6, 1788, aged 80."

"Margaret Blake, August 25, 1792, aged 82."

"Robert Giles, March 12, 1703.—Elizabeth, his wife, May 5, 1705."

"Nathaniel Ingram, March 7, 1749, aged 65."

In the chancel.—"Prudence, daughter of Giles Poyntz, gent., and Anne, his wife, June 3, 1716, aged 19.—Elizabeth, daughter of Giles Poyntz, gent., May 24, 1729, aged 33.—Mary Clark, wife of Luke Clark, of London, and daughter of Giles and Anne Poyntz, Sept. 29, 1726, aged 32.—Edward Poyntes, gentleman, July 29, 1583."

"Elizabeth Sharp, July 11, 1769, aged 55.—Ann Wheddon, daughter of Elizabeth Sharp, Feb. 19, 1803, aged 66."

"Elizabeth Bond, buried Dec. 28, 1791, aged 93."

"George Rawle, Oct. 15, 1799, aged 56; twenty-seven years clerk of this church."

On brasses in the nave are the three following inscriptions:—1. "P. M. D. Hic intumulatus jacet Richardus Blackford, generosus; obiit 2do die Februarii, 1689, circiter annum 65 ætatis suæ."

"Siste gradum properans, et mortem meditare ferocem,

Non fugit imperium ulla corona suum.

Si virtus, probitas, vel cultus mentis adornans,

Quemlibet armaret, non moriturus erat.

Clarus erat patriæ legibus, sinceris amicis,

Nulla ferent talem sec'la futura virum."

Arms—*Argent*, a chevron, *Gules*, between three Etoiles of five points.

2. "Here lyeth the body of Mary Blackford, (daughter of Rich. Blackford, gent., and Elizabeth, his wife) who

departed this life the 22d day of June, 1669, and in the 12th year of her age."

Shorte was her life, longe was her payne,

Greate was our loss, much more her gayne.

3. "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Abraham, surgeon, who practised in this town nearly 40 years, and died 2nd Sept. 1828, in the 62 year of his age."

The register begins thus:—"Dunster Anno Domini 1598, quarto die Augusti Anno Regnæ Do'næ n'æ Elizabethæ Reg. quadragesimo. A register boke conteyning all the weddings, christenings, and burialls, that nowe are to bee founde in the former registers, sithence the beginnunge of her ma^{ties} raigne, which was the xvijth daie of November, in the yeare of our LORD God 1559." Signed by Christopher Williams, curate, and Thomas Dennis and William Blackwell, churchwardens.

A. D.	Baptisms.	Burials.	A. D.	Baptisms.	Burials.
1575....	27....	15	1775....	20....	18
1600....	33....	20	1800....	16....	9
1625....	36....	34	1801....	15....	10
1650....	imperfect.		1802....	22....	14
1675....	19....	30	1803....	21....	12
1700....	38....	23	1804....	18....	13
1725....	33....	27	1805....	19....	12
1750....	21....	27			

There is an earlier register than this, but it is in pieces, and the leaves jumbled together; the earliest date is 1560. It is probable that it is perfect or nearly so if it were properly put together.

The register contains the weddings during the time that marriage was declared by the Long Parliament a civil rite.

In 1697, there were eighty-six burials, but no reason is assigned for this extraordinary number.

In 1644 and 1645, there are several entries of the burials of soldiers from the castle.

Feb. 22, 1735. Nineteen soldiers, a boy, and two women, with two children, were buried, having been drowned the day before.

In the chancel, there are three ancient chests, two of them strongly bound with iron. The chalice bears the date of 1573; the king's arms 1660.

There are several glazed tiles in the chancel and nave; among these are a spread eagle; a fess between six cross crosslets, three and three, birds and flowers, a lion rampant, a man on horseback tilting with a lance; and many fragments with other designs; and in another part of the church, a fess between three crescents.

Over the west window of the south-aisle, on the outside, is "God save the King. 1624. MVXX." (*i. e.* 1520.)

In the church-yard, opposite to the west door, is the pedestal and shaft of an old cross, on three steps, and a venerable yew of large dimensions.

A range of alms-houses are seen in the view, but no particulars of their foundation or endowment are given by the commissioners of charities.

INCUMBENT CURATES OF DUNSTER.

[From the Parish Register and other authorities.]

Richard de Keynsham, occurs in a deed thirteenth
Edw. III. 1338.

Robert, occurs in deeds 1369 and 1378.

John Rice, buried Sept. 27, 1561.

Christopher Williams, buried April 22, 1600.

1600. David Williams.

1603. Thomas Smythe, or Smith, buried April 12,
1638.

1638. Robert Browne.

1642. Robert Snelling.

1661. Richard Savin, or Saffin.

1670. John Graunt, or Grant, buried Feb. 22,
1703.

1703. William Kymer.

1730. John Question.

1738. Jeremiah Davies.

1745. William Cox.

Robert Norris.

James Gould.

1756. Richard Bawden.

1759. William Camplin.

1773. George Henry Leigh.

1821. Thomas Fownes Luttrell.

TRINITY CHANTRY.

In the seventh of Henry VII. (1491) Sir Giles

Daubeny, knight, Alexander Sydenham, Richard Sydenham, George Stukeley, and others, conveyed unto Richard Baker, chaplain, sundry houses and lands in Dunster and Carhampton, on condition that whenever mass was celebrated at the altar of the Holy Trinity, in the parish church of Dunster, he should pray for the souls of Henry Franke, Cristina his wife, and others, and for the faithful departed this life ; and for the good estate of the said Giles, Alexander, &c.

In the twenty-ninth of Henry VIII. (1537) "the feoffors off the Trynyte Chauntre" granted to John Ryse, clerk, "ther full and hole power to receive the p'fyetts of the said chauntre, duryng the terme of xxij yeres;" therewith to repair the houses belonging to it, and to maintain "an honest chapleyn to say masse and to praye for the sowles of the founders, feofers, and benefactors of the said chauntre."

The altar of St. James the apostle, the chapel of St. Mary, and the "wex silver light," are named in ancient wills, &c.

Dunster Church is the only one in the Hundred of Carhampton that is built in the form of a cross, nearly all the churches in the county of Somerset being oblong buildings, with the tower at the west end. The latin cross, or cross of the crucifixion, the form in which our cathedral and larger collegiate and parish churches are built (†) is so called to distinguish it from the Greek cross (+) which is equal in all its parts, and is a very common form of the churches of Italy. As Dunster Church, from its form and contruction, gives me an opportunity of entering upon a brief history of the

general appropriation of the several divisions of our ecclesiastical structures, and there being no other edifice under which I can, with propriety, make such a digression, a few pages upon this subject will, it may be hoped, afford both information and amusement.

During the first period of the ecclesiastical architecture of the Anglo-Saxons, the churches were built either in the square or oblong form, but generally oblong, or in the shape of a parallelogram. Sometimes there was a semicircular turning at the east-end, where the altar stood; and between the nave or body of the church and the chancel there was frequently an arch decorated with zig-zag work, or some other Saxon ornament.

The towers of the early Saxon churches were never lofty; on the contrary, they were usually so low as to add very little to the effect of the building. They frequently consisted of one story, sometimes of two, and there are not wanting examples of three; but the united elevation of these, in the latest and most improved works, bears no proportion to the towers which succeeded with the pointed style.

In the reign of Alfred probably, but certainly in that of Edgar (959 to 975) the Saxon architects began to build their larger churches in the form of a cross, for about the year 970 we find transepts or cross ailes in general use. The towers which in these buildings were placed at the intersection of the cross were also increased considerably in their height and other dimensions, whilst in the smaller churches, where there was no transept, the tower was always placed at the west end. In all likelihood an addition to the height of towers was suggested by the more frequent use of bells.

The *Chancel* seems to have been considered, in all ages, as the most sacred part of the church. Anciently none were admitted into it but those of the priesthood during the oblation; and women were totally excluded. From the present remains of our old parish churches, it is natural to conclude them to have been adapted to the most solemn acts of religion. Upon entering the chancel from the transept, we observe, in our cathedrals, on either hand, the stalls, with desks before them, appropriated to the use of the choir. But as stalls are found in churches where it is improbable there should be priests

officiating sufficient to fill perhaps a dozen or more seats, and also where no great number of the clergy had occasion to come, the choir might have been composed of such of the parishioners as should choose to sing, there being no reason for excluding the laity from thence; since the establishment of St. Stephen's, Westminster, and several other foundations of that kind, admitted of choristers, an office not included in the seven degrees of orders in the church.

Proceeding up the chancel, we ascend three steps, where once stood the high altar, and now the communion table. The altar was of stone, and consecrated by the bishop. The ends were termed its horns; that on the right being the "*Cornu Epistolæ*," from the epistle being read there, as the gospel was on the left.

The *Nave* is so called because it occupied the same situation in oblong and cross churches, in respect to the chancel, that the anti-choir did in the round churches, some few of which remain in England to the present day; and which were erected in imitation of the church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. But the structures of the circular form were merely the *naves* or anti-choirs of those churches: the choirs themselves, the portions more peculiarly appropriated to divine service, were oblong square rooms, with side aisles, the same as we now see in our present parish churches. ⁵

At the entrance of the chancel stands the *Screen*, dividing it from the "*aula*," or nave. This is frequently of excellent workmanship, but is too well known to need description, though it will not be

⁵The *Nave* of a church is derived from the Teutonic *nave*, signifying *round*; because this part was of a round form in those churches which were built by the Knights Templars, and which are still denominated "round churches." There are four of these structures remaining in England, namely, the Temple Church in London; St. Sepulchre's in Cambridge; St. Sepulchre's in Northampton; and the church of Little Maplestead in Essex. I am inclined to believe that all our churches which are dedicated to the Holy Sepulchre, or, as we now say, St. Sepulchre, had originally circular naves.—See an interesting paper on round churches, in *Archæologia*, vol. vi., by Mr. Essex;—and also in Mr. Britton's *Architectural Antiquities*, where their history is fully treated.

impertinent to remark, that in the will of King Henry VI. there is mention of a Reredosse (Screen) bearing the rood-loft parting the choir and the body of the church. (Royal Wills, 302.) At the north-end of the screen, in many old churches, the entrance of a small staircase seems worthy of attention. This leads up to a door, at a moderate height from the pavement. At this door was the place of the pulpit, probably the rood-loft, as appears from the following rubrics :—" In the beginning of the collect before the epistle the sub-deacon must go through the middle of the choir into the pulpit to read the epistle."—" The epistle being read, two boys in surplices, having made obeisance at the altar, before the steps of the choir, must prepare themselves gradually to chaunt their verse."⁶ There was also another, for reading the gospel towards the north, in the same place by the deacon, attended by the sub-deacon ; as also by two clerks, bearing candles, with a third, having the censer, *thuribulum*. As it would be impossible for so many to perform their duty with propriety, circumscribed in the narrow limits of the present pulpit, it is reasonable to conclude that the pulpit, to which these stairs led, might be the rood-loft, particularly as it appears to have been placed over the screen, as is manifest from the will of Henry VI., and that the upper stair usually ascended nearly even with the top of the screen. From this place also the sermon was delivered, the curate being obliged to preach four times in the year, by an ecclesiastical constitution of Archbishop Peckham's. From which reading and preaching to the people assembled in the nave, it may be concluded that the body of the church received the name of " Auditorium."⁷

During the predominance of the catholic religion in England, crucifixes were set up in churches to recognise our Lord's passion. The place appropriated for this purpose was the *rood-loft*. Portable crosses or crucifixes were used by our ancestors on solemn occasions ; many of these were adorned with holy relicks and precious stones of great value. They were carried by princes in their pilgrimages and processions to the shrines of saints, and with their armies when they

⁶ Missale, 1515.

⁷ Gent. Mag. Aug. 1787.

went on expeditions. The famous cross which was preserved at Holyrood House in Edinburgh, was carried by King David II. in his expedition to England, where it was taken with the king, and many of his bishops and nobles, at Nevill's Cross, near Durham, on the 27th of October, 1346, by the forces commanded by Ralph Lord Nevill and John Nevill, his son, and was offered by them at the shrine of St. Cuthbert, with the images of the Virgin Mary and St. John the Evangelist, of pure and massy gold. The foot or pedestal of this cross was garnished with rich and large diamonds, precious rubies, fine turquoises, and costly emeralds.

Crosses and crucifixes in those days were so much venerated by the professors of Christianity, that they were possessed by every person from the prince to the peasant, and these were more or less ornamented according to the wealth of the owners. We find them in cathedrals, churches, chapels, and oratories, and they even made a part of the dress of all ranks of people, who wore them not only as symbols of their profession of faith, but as ornaments to their persons. We also find this badge of Christianity on armour, weapons, and household furniture; the private chapels and oratories of princes and nobles were furnished with crucifixes, many of which were richly ornamented with pearls and precious stones. The covers of books were richly ornamented with crucifixes and jewels, of which many instances might be given.

The sign of the cross was the distinguishing badge of Christians; the martyrs declared their faith by it before their persecutors; and when a Christian was asked his religion, it was usual for him to answer by making this sign, rather than by words. In short, it was universally held by the professors of Christianity to be the most sacred of all symbols. By this they signified their assent to their decrees, laws, and ordinances; and in conveyances of property from the seventh to the end of the eleventh century, and occasionally to the middle of the twelfth, it was styled "*Signum Sanctissime Crucis, Vexillum Sanctissime Crucis,*" &c.

Our Saxon ancestors invariably confirmed their charters, and most solemn acts, by the sign of the cross, not only because this sign was

deemed the most sacred of all others, and that an act or deed confirmed by it could not be infringed, without incurring the highest displeasure of the DIVINE BEING; but they even supposed that an instrument, confirmed by the sign of the cross, was binding on all mankind; for the Saxons in their charters generally thundered the most dreadful anathemas against those who should infringe them; even the witnesses used it as the most sacred asseveration which they could give of the truth of their testimony.⁸

The *Font* is discovered usually placed near the door at the west end of the church. They are to be met with of very ancient forms; many, as may be conjectured from their decorations, seeming to have remained since the Norman, and even the Saxon times; nor has due attention been wanting to these venerable remains of sacred antiquity, though the reason for their vast capacity is as yet, in some measure, to be freed from doubt. By a constitution of Archbishop Edmund's, the font should be placed in every church where baptism might be performed; also the font, or "*Baptisterium*," must be of stone, or other suitable material, so that the person to be baptized should be plunged into it,⁹ according to *Lynwood*; which may be assigned as one sufficient cause of its largeness; it should also be inclosed within a lattice; nor should the water be kept in it, according to the said constitution, above seven days. As the method of baptizing throws some light upon the subject, it will be worth the insertion. By the forty-second Apostolic Canon, three ablutions of one mystery were commanded on pain of being deposed; this seems to have been the usual practice of the church. The mode of baptizing was thus, according to the practice of the Romish church:—"Let the minister baptize him with three immersions, at the same time invoking the Holy Trinity, and saying, *I baptize thee in the name of the Father* (giving him one immersion); *in the name of the Son*, (immersing a second time) *and in the name of the Holy Spirit* (immersing a third time)."¹⁰

⁸ Paper by Mr. Astle, in *Archæologia*, vol. xij. p. 218.

⁹ *Gibson's Codex*, vol. i. p. 435.

¹⁰ *Gent. Mag.* Aug. 1787.

The *Porch* is a very ancient appendage to the church, for Sexburga, who founded the nunnery at Minster, in the Isle of Sheppey, is said to have expired in the church porch, at Milton, in Kent, in the year 680; and Gervase, the monk of Canterbury, in his account of the burning of Christ Church, in 1174, says that "the fire began before the gate of the church, without the porch." However the porch may have been passed over as a matter of mere ornament, it had its especial uses. In that part of the will of king Henry VI. relative to the foundation of Eton College, there is this article.—"Item, in the south-side of the body of the church, a fair large door with a porch, and the same for christening of children and weddings."¹¹ Somner relates that, in 1299, Edward I. was married at Canterbury, to Margaret, sister of the king of France, by Archbishop Winchelsea, "in the porch of the church;" *in ostio Ecclesiæ versus claustrum*.¹²

The following rubric occurs in a Missal *secundum usum Sarum*, printed at Paris in 1515:—"Let the man and woman be placed before the church porch, in the face of the congregation before God, and the priest and the people," &c.; which points out the use of the porch in the performance of the marriage ceremony. By the rituals under the article "Churching Women," it appears that the priest went to the door of the church, where the woman was to receive ecclesiastical benediction, kneeling down; the twenty-third Psalm was said, with some responses, after which she was led into the church, the conclusion being made before the altar.

But the most particular use of the porch was in administering the sacrament of baptism:—"The priest standing at the entrance of the church, interrogates the catechumen who stands at the church door." Here the necessary questions being asked, and prayers being said, "the priest led him or her into the church, saying, *Enter into the holy church of God, that you may receive the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Nothing can be more apparent, than that the performance of these rites would have been many times impracticable, had it not been for the kind invention of the porch.¹³

¹¹ Royal Wills, p. 279. ¹² Hist. Canterb. p. 167. ¹³ Gent. Mag. Aug. 1787.

PRIORY OF DUNSTER.

In the reign of William the Conqueror, Sir William de Moion, or Mohun, called the elder, according to Dugdale, founded here a priory of Benedictine monks. This house was situated on the north-west side of the castle, and on the south-east of the present church-yard, and was dedicated to the honour of St. George. It was annexed as a cell by the founder to the abbey of St. Peter, at Bath.¹⁴ Dugdale, in the Baronage, says that William de Mohun the founder, was buried in the priory at Bath; but Leland, in the Collectanea,¹⁵ says, that William de Mohun was buried in the priory of Dunster, which himself had founded; and that William, his son and heir, was buried there likewise, as was also William III., who was the first earl of Somerset.

Dugdale, however, in the former edition of the Monasticon,¹⁶ has included this house in his list of Alien priories; and it is remarkable, that Strachey, in his list of religious houses in Somersetshire, should say, that "it was first a Priory Alien, and with others suppressed in the second of Henry V., and then procured to be annexed to Bath."¹⁷

In the first volume of the Monasticon, there is

¹⁴ Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 497. ex vet. cod. MS. pence Will. Mohun, eq. aur. 1583, and not John Mohun, as in Speed.

¹⁵ Edit. 1769, vol. i. p. 203.

¹⁶ Vol. i. p. 1035.

¹⁷ See Strachey's List at the end of Hearne's Hemingford, p. 656.

printed a charter of *Inspeximus* of Edward III., in which that king exemplifies and confirms a former charter, granted to the monks of this Priory by John de Mohun, in the fifteenth year of the same king's reign, confirming to them all the donations and gifts which his ancestors had made to the said priory. In this charter the said John de Mohun recites that his family had given to the said monks all the tithes of Dunster, as well of his vineyards as of his arable lands, mills, and markets; the whole village of Alcombe, and all its appurtenances, containing one hide of land, free and quit of all services; and half the tithes of the demesnes of Minehead; all the tithes of Broadwood, Carhampton, and Newton; half the tithes of Broomfield; and all the tithes of Stockland and Kilton. Also two fisheries; one belonging to Dunster, and the other to Carhampton; all the tithes of his mares at More, and the tenth pig of all his hogs at Dunster, Carhampton, and Kilton, whether living or dead, in the name of tithe. And also the pasture which is called *Foghelerismersh*; and the land of Frakeford; and a ferling of land called *Chaldeville*, which belongs to his manor of Cutcombe; also one ferling of land which lies between *La Stenteville* and the mill of Cowbridge. And also all the burgages in Dunster, which his ancestors had given to the said priory, together with the release of the suit due to the Hundred Court of Minehead, which the Lord Reginald de Mohun had given thereto. Also the church of Kilton, with the tithes and all its appurtenances; and

the tithes of the demesnes of Screveton, Combe, and Codisford, and the whole land of *Kynevordisham*, (in Luxborough). And also the tithes of Exford. The land also of *Hamelham*, which William de Mohun had given for the good of the soul of Ralph de Mohun. Also three ferlings of land at Northcombe, free and quit of all services, and in pure and perpetual alms.

This charter was dated at Dunster, on the Sunday next after the festival of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist, in the fifteenth year of the reign of King Edward III., and was witnessed by Simon de Furneaux, Edward de Estradling, Ralph de Fitzurse, Alexander Luttrell, and John de Membury, knights; John Durborough, John de Bracton, Edmund Martyu, Gilbert Huish, Geoffrey de Avill, and many others.

In the eighteenth of Richard II., Peter de Bracton gave lands in the manor of Sparkshay, in Porlock, to this priory.

In 1292, the prior is stated to have received from the rectory of Cutcombe a yearly pension of forty shillings and four-pence; but this pension is not mentioned in the return of the value of the priory estates in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, 1535.—The prior had also an annual pension of seven shillings out of the parsonage of Stogumber.

The monastery of Bath received an annual pension of £6 13s. 7d. from the priory of Dunster. This pension appears to have been charged on the great tithes of the parish of Carhampton; and is accounted for in

the sum of £8 10s., which seems to have been reduced by deductions to £6 13s. 7d.

This cell consisted of only four or five monks besides the prior, who was generally sent hither from the monastery of Bath. At the dissolution, there were only three monks here.¹⁸

In the twentieth of Edward I. (1291) the spiritualities and temporalities of this priory amounted to £18 13s. 7d.

The revenues of this priory were valued, in 1444, at £30 13s. 4d.; and in 1535, at £37 4s. 8d.

Tanner and Collinson say that the site of this house was granted in the thirty-fourth of Henry VIII. (1543) to Humphrey Colles, esq. In the same year, however, in the abstracts from the Originalia, we find it in the possession of Margaret Luttrell, widow.¹⁹

There is, in the augmentation office, a lease of the site of this priory or cell, with the tithes and a mill, made under the seal of the court of augmentations to John Luttrell, thirty-first Henry VIII. In the thirty-seventh of Henry VIII., John Wyncham appears to have held the site of this priory.²⁰

¹⁸ Tanner's *Notit. Monast.* from MS. Corp. Christ. Coll. Cant.

¹⁹ Original. 34 Hen. VIII. p. i. Devon. Somers. "*De separalibus homagiis et fidelibus Hugonis Pollard militis pro messuag., etc., in Braye et Estbuckland in Com. Devon. Anthonii Ackeland pro Messuag., etc., in Goodlegh in Com. Devon. et Margareta Lutterell viduæ scit. Prioratus vel Cellæ de Dunstre in com. Somers.*" Rot. 62, 63, 64.

²⁰ Origin. 37 Hen. 8. Somers. "*De homagio et fidelitate Johannis Wyncham et al. pro scitu nuper domus sive Prioratus de Dunster, per Licent. inde fact.*" Rot. 84.

A farm house now occupies the site of the late priory, on the north-east of the church-yard.

In the street leading to the church, there is an ancient building, now used as a malt-house, called the *Nunnery*; but there is no account of such an institution in any record relating to this town; it is therefore probable that it was only part of the offices of the priory.

In 1788, the Hon. Daines Barrington exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries, a seal which had been lately found near Dunster Castle. It represented a monk on his knees before the virgin and child. The inscription round it was

Philippi Scelarata Dilve XPifera.

The last word to be read Christofera. This seal had probably belonged to some of the priors of Dunster.²¹

Mr. Luttrell possesses a copy, in paper, of a grant of the prior of Bath, that one of his monks of Dunster priory, belonging to Bath, should at the prior's charge find a secular priest to say mass every day in the upper chapel of Dunster Castle, called St. Stephen's, for the souls of the ancestors and successors of Reginald Mohun, and the souls of all faithful men departed; and if he be hindered to say mass and preach there by reason of war, then during that time to say mass for them in St. Lawrence's Chapel within Dunster Priory; and if there be a failure thereof, that then it shall be lawful for the said Reginald Mohun, and his heirs and the

²¹ *Archæologia*, vol. ix. p. 369.

owners of the castle to distrain the goods of the said prior until the said service be performed. Dated thirty-ninth Henry III. (1255).

At Dunster Castle are the following papers, deeds, &c.:—"A copy of the charter of Inspeximus of the deed of John Mohun, lord of Dunster, made fifteenth Edward III. to the *prior* and *monks*," &c. ; Mr. Prynne says it is dated 12th June, twentieth of Edward III. With the charter is a copy of Pope Honorius's bull of confirmation to them, with the invocation of the anger of God and the apostles Peter and Paul, on all infringers thereof; dated 13th December, seventh year of his pontificate.

"A deed of gift (by John de Mohun) directed to the bailiff and provost of Dunster, to deliver four quarters of wheat to the monks of Dunster; dated in July, thirty-first of Edward III."

"And John Mohun's confirmation of his father's grant, twenty-seventh of Edward III."

"John Mohun granted 100s. annual rent out of his borough of Dunster, to the prior and monks of Dunster and their successors, in pure and perpetual frankalmoine to pray for his soul and the souls of his ancestors;—and pasturage of all their cattle at Cokbrugge, and twelve loads of wood yearly, out of Marshwood Park, dated sixteenth of Edward III., and recited and confirmed thirty-third of Edward III."

"And Wm. de Mohun his confirmation of several grants of his grandfather Reginald Mohun, and father

John Mohun, to the prior and monks of Dunster." (without date.)

"Copy of the composition between Thomas, the prior of Bath, and the prior of Dunster, for the church of Carhampton, settled upon the prior of Dunster, with a release of 8s. 6d. rent and services granted by John de Mohun, lord of Dunster, to the prior and monks of Dunster, with a grant of common to them for all their cattle upon Croydon, of twelve loads of wood yearly, out of Marshwood Park, sixteenth of Edward III., and a confirmation thereof by John Mohun, lord of Dunster, thirty-third Edward III.

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, taken in the twenty-sixth of Henry VIII., (1535) there is the following "Declaration of the extent and annual value of all and singular the lands and tenements and other possessions, with the tithes, oblations, and other issues, of divers benefices and chapels belonging to the priory of Dunster, in the time of John Griffith, prior of the same, by Sir Andrew Luttrell, knt., and Hugh Malet, esq., the King's commissioners, and Hugh Trotter and John Plompton, auditors."

DEMESNE LANDS.

Annual value of the demesne lands in the hands of the prior, for the use of the priory, and valued by four law- ful men	3 10 6
--	--------

<i>Brought up</i>	£3	10	6
Out of which there is paid			
In alms annually distributed to certain			
poor persons for the soul of Sir			
John Mohun, knt.	0	6	8
	<hr/>		
	£3	3	10

MANOR OF ALCOMBE.

Annual rents there	11	12	0
Out of which there is paid			
The fee of William Machyn,			
steward	1	0	0
The fee of J. Gryme, bailiff	1	0	0
In alms annually distributed			
to divers poor persons by			
gift of the founders	0	8	0—2 8 0
	<hr/>		
Clear.....	£9	4	0
Perquisites of the courts and other			
casualties ..	0	10	0

MARSH.

Annual rents there.....	0	13	4
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FRAKEFORD.

Annual rent of two tenements there..	1	0	0
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CUTCOMBE.

Annual rent of two tenements there..	0	9	4
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LUXBOROUGH.

Annual rent of two tenements there..	0	10	0
--------------------------------------	---	----	---

<i>Brought up</i>	£0	10	0
Out of which there is paid			
For an annual rent to the lord of Lux-			
borough	0	2	0
	<hr/>		
	£0	8	0

COWBRIDGE.

Annual rent of a tenement there	1	6	8
--------------------------------------	---	---	---

DUNSTER.

Annual rent of nine burgages there .	2	10	6
--------------------------------------	---	----	---

WYLLALLER.

An annual chief rent of the heirs of			
By the more there.....	0	4	0

MINEHEAD.

Annual rent of a mediety of the de-			
mesne lands and agistments of the			
park there	1	10	0

Value of the spirituals undermentioned:

RECTORY OF DUNSTER.

Personal tithes with other casualties..	17	5	8
Out of which there is paid			
To the bishop for procura-			
tions.....	0	7	5½
For an annual stipend to the			
vicar there	4	13	4
To the archdeacon for sy-			
nodals	0	2	10½—5 3 8
	<hr/>		
Clear.....	£12	2	0

RECTORY OF CARHAMPTON.

Predial tithes and other casualties ..	14	6	8
Out of which there is paid			
An annual pension to the			
prior and convent of Bath	8	10	0
An annual pension to the			
cathedral church of Wells	5	0	0—13 10 0
Clear	£0	16	8

RECTORY OF KILTON.

Predial tithes and other casualties....	2	16	4
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STOKEGOMER.

A pension from the vicar there	0	7	0
--------------------------------------	---	---	---

SOUTH WALES, ABBEY OF NEATH.

A pension in Exford, in the county of			
Somerset, per annum.....	0	3	0
Sum total of all the possessions afore-			
said, as well temporal as spiritual ..	37	4	8
Tenths	3	14	5½

PRIORS OF DUNSTER.

Robert de Sutton was made prior the 24th of October, 1332. He had been prior of Bath, but was removed by the authority of the pope's provisionary bull, and was translated to the priory of Dunster, with a pension of twenty marks.²²

²² Dr. Strachey's Account of Religious Houses in the diocese of Bath and Wells, at the end of Hearne's Hemmingford, p. 612.—Warner's Hist. of Bath, p 132.

William Bristow was prior in 1414, when there were four monks with him here.

John Telesford, upon whose death,

John Henton, monk of Bath, was collated by Bishop Stafford, the priory of Bath being void, July 28, 1425.²³

Thomas Brown occurs prior in 1499, when the vicarage of Dunster was endowed.²⁴

John Griffith was the last prior, 1535.

DUNSTER CASTLE.

The first William de Mohun having seated himself in the territory which he had acquired from his victorious sovereign, by dispossessing its Saxon owner, Aluric, not only rebuilt the castle, "but," says Collinson, "added largely to the buildings of the town." The "additions," however, to the buildings of the town could not be very large, for we have the authority of Domesday Book for asserting that twenty years after the Conquest, besides the castle, there were only fifteen agricultural tenants of the class called *Bordars*, and two millers, residing at Torre, as it was then called, the present Dunster.

²³ "Custodia cellæ de Dunster commissa est domino Johanni Henton monacho Bathon. per mortem Johannis Telesford, dat. 28 July, 1425." Reg. Stafford. See Harl. MSS. 6966. p. 156.

²⁴ "May 31, 1499, Compositio facta inter Johannem priorem Bathon. et Conv. et Tho. Brown priorem cellæ de Dunster et Conv. et Will. Bonde vicar de Dunster de proportionione vicarii de Dunster et aliis rebus." Reg. Oliv. King, Episc. Bath et Wells in Fine, fo. 45.

This place was at that time so unimportant as a town, that there was only as much arable land belonging to it as was sufficient for one plough. Its new owner, however, appears to have improved it much in value, for the Survey says, that when he received it, it was worth no more than five shillings annually, but afterward it was worth fifteen shillings per annum.

In that venerable record, the manor of Torre is thus surveyed:—

“William de Mohun holds TORRE, and there is his castle. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for half a hide. The arable land is sufficient for one plough. There are two mills, which render ten shillings; fifteen bordars, five acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture. It was formerly worth five shillings, and now it is worth fifteen shillings.”²⁵

The ancient castle would seem to have been a quadrangular structure, and it is probable that the keep was circular.²⁶ Immediately on passing through the present gateway, on the right is the ancient door of the castle yet remaining, studded with iron; and on the right of this ancient door are the ruins of one of the towers which flanked the entrance into the castle. These, I believe, are all the remains now extant of this once celebrated castle of the Mohuns.

²⁵ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 95. b.

²⁶ The keep of Rougemont Castle, in this county, the baronial seat of the families of Harptree and Gournay, was circular. That of Walton in Gordano was octangular.

The baron of the "olden time" knowing that he was surrounded by warriors like himself, would not, incautiously, place his residence in a spot commanded by adjoining eminences. The bold brow of the precipitous cliff, or the lofty summit of the solitary hill, would alone afford him security in that state of desultory warfare in which his own inordinate aggressions, sanctioned by the practice of the feudal ages, perpetually kept him; and these were the fastnesses which he pitched upon for his residence. Dunster Castle, in conformity with this principle, is situated on a spot favourable to resistance—a steep eminence at the southern extremity of the town, overlooking and commanding a great extent of country, together with the Bristol Channel.

William de Mohun the third was one of those barons who espoused the cause of the Empress Maud, daughter of King Henry I. against King Stephen, and, besides other assistance, fortified Dunster Castle in her behalf, and made many successful incursions into the neighbouring country.

In Leland's Itinerary there are the following particulars relating to Dunster Castle, written by that celebrated antiquary about the year 1540.

"The Mohuns builded the right goodly and strong castle of Dunster. They had *Jura Regalia* there.

"The dungeon of the castle of Dunster hath been

full of goodly building. But now there is but only a chapel in good case.

"Sir Hugh Luttrell did of late days repair this chapel. The fairest part of the castle well maintained is in the north-east of the court of it.

"Sir Hugh Luttrell, (who died second Henry VIII.) in the time of Dame Margaret his wife, sister of the old Lord Daubeney, made a fair tower by north, coming into the castle. Sir Andrew Luttrell, son of Sir Hugh, built anew a piece of the castle wall by east.

"There belongeth many privileges and knights' services to be done to this castle. There is a pretty park joining to the east part of the castle."

Sir Hugh Luttrell, the first of this family who possessed Dunster Castle, lived here in his old age, and kept great hospitality. He rebuilt a considerable part of the castle.

George Luttrell, esq. who was sheriff of the county of Somerset in the thirty-sixth of Elizabeth, added greatly to the buildings of the castle.

The present Dunster Castle was built about the middle of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1580.) The principal gateway is of the time of Edward III. Over the point of the arch are several escutcheons of the Luttrells and their intermarriages.

During the civil commotions in the reign of Charles I. the king's army, under the marquess of Hertford,

marched into Somersetshire about the middle of June, 1643, and that nobleman took up his head-quarters at Orchard-Portman, and in three days after obtained possession of Taunton, Bridgwater, and Dunster Castle, the latter being so much stronger than both the others, that it could not have been forced; "yet," says Lord Clarendon, "by the dexterity of Francis Wyndham, who wrought upon the fears of Mr. Luttrell, the owner, it was, with as little blood-shed as the others, delivered up to his majesty; into which castle the marquess placed him as governor who took it, as he well deserved."²⁷

While Colonel Wyndham was governor, the prince, afterwards Charles II., paid him a visit.²⁸ "Lord Digby by his letters to the prince's council signified his majesty's pleasure that the prince should stay at Dunster Castle and encourage the new levies, it being (I presume) not known at court that the plague which had driven him from Bristol was as hot at Dunster town, just under the castle." From hence the prince went to Barnstaple, and as Taunton was in the hands of the

²⁷ Clarendon's History, vol. ii. p. 368.

²⁸ In an account book of the late Rev. Dr. Henry James, rector of Crocombe, there are the following entries:—

Aug. 27, 1650.	Payd rate for pulling downe Dunster Castle to William Slocombe	0 11 8
Sept. 5.	Payd rate for pulling downe Dunster Castle to William Slocombe	0 5 10
June 3, 1662.	Payd to Francis Hill for repaying a bridge by Dunster	0 1 8

[From the information of Mr. W. Bucknell, of Crocombe.]

parliamentary army, it is most likely he travelled on horseback over Exmoor Forest. A room is still shown in the castle called King Charles's room.

When the siege of Taunton had been raised in the spring of the year 1646, and the garrison sufficiently recovered from the fatigues and hardships they had endured from the straitness of that siege, Colonel Blake, the governor, marched with a party of his own soldiers, and some companies from the neighbouring garrisons, to Dunster Castle.

It is very probable that Colonel Blake planted his cannon at the northern end of Fore Street, and in a field adjoining the garden of the Luttrell Arms Inn, where the ground appears to have been broken for platforms at the western extremity of a ridge which would effectually cover his men from the fire of the castle itself. The shot through a timber of the yarn market was directed to the northern end of the Fore Street, but very little firing could have taken place on either side, or more of its effects would have been visible.²⁹

This fortress stands on an eminence of very difficult access to an army intending to besiege it, and it was defended by a garrison commanded by Colonel Wyndham, as zealous and resolute against the Parliament as any in the King's interest; but Colonel Blake soon forced the Royalists to surrender, and he thus reduced

²⁹ See Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion*, vol. ii. pp. 213, 510. Oxford folio edition.

a large tract of country, inhabited by a numerous population, who were, however, extremely ill-affected to the parliament. This service being accomplished, Blake returned in triumph to Taunton in April, 1646.³⁰

Dunster Castle could not have been a strong military position at this time, for it is commanded by higher ground on all sides except toward the east. It must have been a traditionary character for strength which it then had. Before the invention of artillery, and whilst its keep was standing, it was, undoubtedly, a very strong place, being situated on a steep conical hill.

In December, 1648, the celebrated William Prynne, then a member of the Long Parliament, having expressed in the House of Commons, his opinion that the King had satisfactorily answered the propositions for peace, which had been made by the parliament, was two days after, with many other members, refused admittance into the House, by the soldiers. Upon this he became a bitter enemy to the army, and to their leader, Cromwell, and attacked them with much severity. Thus defying Cromwell in an open manner, he was on the first of July, 1650, committed close prisoner to Dunster Castle. He then insisted strongly upon Magna Charta and the liberty of the subject, which, though of little weight with Cromwell, seem at last to have been the means of procuring him his liberty ;

³⁰ Oldmixon's Hist. of the Stuarts, p. 303.—Life of Admiral Blake.

and taking again to his favourite employment, he wrote abundance of books upon religious controversies and other points.³¹

Whilst Prynne was confined in Dunster Castle, he was so much gratified by the generous hospitality and continued kindness of Mr. Luttrell, that he examined all the charters and muniments of that family, and the Mohuns, and arranged them in the most complete order in numerous boxes, that remain to this day. He also compiled a calendar of the whole, which is yet extant in a volume, now in the possession of Mr. Luttrell.

These papers were arranged by Prynne in thirty-nine boxes, but they are not now in the state in which he left them. The commencement of his book is as follows :—" An exact kalendar and table of all writings and evidences which concern all and singular the manors, lands and inheritance, of Geo. Luttrell, of Dunster Castle, in the county of Somerset, esq., or his ancestors on the honour, antiquity, pedigree, privileges, and offices of his family. Dygested for the most part into a chronologycal order and distributed into several classes, out of a confused chaos, by William Prynne, of Swainswicke, esq., during his illegal imprisonment in Dunster Castle, in the month of Oct. Anno 1650."

Prynne ends it in these words :—" Mr. George Lut-

³¹ Chalmers's Biog. Dict. art. Prynne.—Wood's Athenæ Oxon. vol. ii.

trell, esq., his pedigree, and the history of his ancestors and family, exactly drawn out of his writings, by Wm. Prynne, of Swainswicke, esq., in the eight months of his illegal, causeless, close imprisonment in Dunster Castle, by Mr. Bradshaw and his companions at Whitehall.—Feb. 18, Anno Dom. 1650. 2 Car. II.”

The castle, to this day the residence of the Luttrell family, stands on the south-eastern side of the conical hill called the Torr, which we mentioned in our account of the town, on which it looks down, commanding a view of the whole length of the Fore Street, beyond which is Conygar Hill,³² whose top and sides, including an area of nearly twenty-eight acres, are covered with wood. The summit of this hill is a thin ridge, on the eastern extremity of which is the shell of a tower, built by a former Mr. Luttrell, which is covered with ivy, and appears as if in ruins, and is a well-known land-mark to the navigators of the Bristol Channel; on the other end of the ridge are some artificial ruins, but they cannot be seen from the castle. To the east of the town are some fields, in which are numerous fine old oak, elm, and ash trees, and a rookery; a long row of these trees, and a low ridge of ground

³² Coneygar seems to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Cynig*, king; and the Mæso-Gothic *Garas*, the same as the Latin *Domus*, a house—that is, the king's house or residence. Mr. Hamper has some notion that *Conygre* means a rabbit ground, which he says was a common appendage to manor houses; but Mr. Hamper does not go high enough for his etymology; besides, how does it appear that a rabbit ground was at any time an appendage to manor houses? There is no authority for such an assertion.

hide from the view of the castle the road from Luxhole-bridge to the town. Further to the east is a beautiful lawn of more than three hundred acres, of excellent pasture ground, between which and the open fields just described, runs the river, its banks studded with clumps of trees; the southern and eastern sides of this lawn, where the ground undulates, are skirted by hanging woods; and beyond it to the left is a tract of watered meadow, extending down to the sea. Beyond these eastward, the eye runs over a beautiful country of hill and dale, corn fields and meadows, with hedge rows, and plantations of timber, till it rests on the Quantock Hills. The spectator has also a fine view of the channel, with the trackless wanderers traversing its dark surface; the coast of South Wales and its mountainous interior; the Steep and Flat Holmes; the isolated terraced-hill of Brent Knoll, once one of the strongest military posts in the county; the bay of Blue Anchor, with its inn, lodging-houses, and cottages; and the high rocks on its eastern extremity, against which the sea is often seen breaking in the wildest grandeur. To the left of the lawn is the park, several miles in circumference, and in which are generally kept five or six hundred head of deer. In it are several woods; and on its highest part is an ancient camp, the ramparts of which are seen from the castle: the way up to this camp is through a deep glen, skirted on each side by timber, through which runs a small stream. Between the park and the bottom of the Torr a narrow slip of

the lawn intervenes. The west-front of the castle looks upon a lawn on the Torr, above an acre in extent; it is quite level, and is skirted on the north and east by a wall and the ruins of one of the towers of the old castle, which once, no doubt, covered the greater part of this level; above the wall are seen the tops of trees; in front, in the west, are ever-greens and trees, with Grabhurst towering behind. On the left, in the south, rises the highest part of this beautiful mound, covered with ever-greens, flowering shrubs, and trees to its top, where is a bowling-green, encircled by a wall, skirted with laurustinus and othershrubs; between the openings of which are some of the most beautiful views in the kingdom, and to which the most glowing writer could scarcely do justice; they must be seen to be truly appreciated, and consist of endless variety of sea and land, hill and dale, wood and water, cultivated and forest, mountain and plain, rivers, roads, woods, towns, a harbour and shipping, and the cheerful countenances of a happy and hospitable people. The Torr itself, except the lawn and bowling-green, is covered with timber, and almost every variety of ever-greens and flowering shrubs, whose odour is delightful; and among which an infinite number of singing birds delight to harbour and build, charming the heavens with their varied, ceaseless songs, only excelled by that of the nightingale, which frequents this neighbourhood in great numbers in the season. Nearly twenty of these birds have been heard singing from one spot on

a fine moon-light night. The Torr is laid out in gravel walks, which encircle it from its base till they terminate in the bowling-green. Openings are left for the spectator to enjoy the ever-changing scenery; from one of them, where he can see scarcely any thing else in that line, at a great height, he looks down upon the water-wheel of the mill at its foot. There are some seats and grottos by these paths. There is a rookery among the trees on the west-side, and abundance of game harbour here, especially pheasants. The bowling green is supposed to have been the site of the keep of the ancient castle of the Mohuns. The park, woods, and plantations have distinguished claims on the lovers of picturesque beauty. The present coach-entrance to the castle is from the north; it winds round the castle up the Torr to the lawn, before the west-front. The foot-path is steep, and goes under an old embattled tower, past the inner iron-studded door of the old castle, and along by the foot of the wall to the corner of the present castle, where a flight of stone steps leads up to the lawn, while the path runs round the eastern front till it joins the coach road. The ruined turrets of Kenilworth shew that once, as the proud towers of Warwick and Berkeley do still, that as castellated structures, they were superior to Dunster as it now is; but in point of local scenery they fall far short of it, as well in picturesque beauty as in stately romantic grandeur.

Gilpin, in his observations on the western parts of

England,³³ calls Dunster Castle one of the grandest artificial objects he had met with ; and remarks that "in the amusing circle round the walls of the castle, he had three distinct species of landscape, a *park* scene, a tract of *mountainous country*, and a *sea-coast*." Warner, in his "Walk through the Western Counties,"³⁴ gives due honour to these "proud turrets, venerable woods," and other objects of admiration ; and Dr. Maton, in his Tour,³⁵ describes the situation of this castle as "commanding a view of the whole valley and the sea beyond, and as having an air of grandeur that we are accustomed to look for in every structure of this nature, but frequently find wanting."

The castle was supplied with water from a spring, over which a conduit is built, on the side of Grabhurst Hill, and which may be presumed to be the *well of St. Leonard*, mentioned in ancient writings.³⁶

The hall is a stately room, and the visitor will be gratified with looking over it. The great stair-case is a fine example of curious old carving in oak, but it is in some degree disfigured by being painted. It would be in good taste to have the paint removed, and thus restore the natural beauty of the wood, and shew the ingenuity of the artist to that advantage which his work so highly merits.

³³ p. 170.

³⁴ p. 79.

³⁵ Vol. II. p. 98.

³⁶ "Dimidiam Acram Terræ subtus *Grobbefast*, juxta fontem Sancti Leonardi."—51 Edward III.

"Seysinam in una Acrà terre arabile in Campis de Dunsterre, vocati *above the town*, prope fontem Sancti Leonardi."—14 Hen. IV.—From deeds belonging to William Hamper, of Birmingham, esq.

There is an ancient picture in this hall, done by a tolerable hand, representing a ship foundering at sea in the distance, and a man swimming, and looking up to certain figures in the clouds; to which is added, by a later and very indifferent painter, the figure of a lady floating by his side. This is said, traditionally, to have been the picture of Sir John Luttrell, living in the time of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. and refers to his having saved a certain lady from drowning, with whom he was then in love, and whom he afterward married.

The lady is represented as being secured to his arm by a handkerchief, and he holds up the arm so that she may float on the surface of the sea, whilst he is swimming with the other. A figure of victory, accompanied by a numerous group, appears as if ready to crown him with laurel.

Under this picture is the following inscription:—

More than the rocks amidst the raging seas,
The constant heart no danger dreads nor fears.

S. H.

Effigiem renovare tuam, fortissime miles,
Ingens me meritum facit, amorque tui,
Nam nisi curasces hæredem scribere fratrem !
Hei ! tua contigerant prædia nulla mihi.

1591. G. L.

1550. H. E.

Literally:—

Your great desert ; and my regard for you
Makes me brave knight, your effigies renew,
Had not fraternal love made me your heir,
None of your manors ere had been my share.

The visitor will also notice a fine half-length portrait of Oliver Cromwell, by Vandyke.

There is preserved here a piece of sculpture in alabaster, about a foot square, representing the descent from the cross, attended by Joseph of Arimathea, and the two Marys. This piece was found on taking down an old house at Withycombe.

The walls of one of the upper rooms are decorated with a suite of paintings upon leather, in imitation of tapestry, the figures the natural size, representing the story of Antony and Cleopatra. I am inclined to think that these paintings were originally used on particular occasions, either of festivity or company, in decorating the grand drawing-room of the castle; and that the room in which they now are, is only a kind of depository for them.

Tapestry was anciently the fashionable furniture of our castles and great houses, and it was chiefly filled with lively representations of this sort.³⁷ Warton has preserved the stories of the tapestry in the royal palaces of Henry VIII. and also in the tower of London, the original and most ancient seat of our monarchs; in Windsor Castle, and in various houses of our nobility. The most valuable, and perhaps the most ancient work of this sort now existing, is the entire series of Duke William's descent on England, preserved in the church of Bayeux, in Normandy, and intended as an ornament of the choir on high festivals.

³⁷Warton's *Hist. of Poetry*, vol. ii. p. 42.

Bartholinus relates that it was an art much cultivated by the ancient islanders, to weave the histories of their giants and champions in tapestry. The same thing is recorded of the old Persians; and this furniture is still in high request among many oriental nations. It is well known that to frame pictures of heroic adventures in needle-work, was a favourite practice of classical antiquity.

In the front of the castle, in the open air, there is growing a remarkably fine lemon tree, (*Citrus Limon*) which is in constant bearing, and produces abundance of large fruit. During the winter season it is carefully sheltered by a moveable shed, to preserve it from the chilling frosts, and from the effects of the sea breeze. At all other times it is exposed to the atmosphere, and it has been for many years, and is now, in a remarkably healthy state of vegetation.

Virgil, in his second Georgic, describes the lemon-tree in an agreeable manner. Pliny mentions lemon-juice as an antidote; but says that the fruit from its austere taste, was not eaten. Theophrastus, who studied under Plato and Aristotle, says of lemons, that they were cultivated for their fragrance, not for their taste; that the peel was laid up with garments, to preserve them from moths, and that the juice was administered by physicians medicinally.

Plutarch, who flourished within a generation of

Pliny, witnessed the introduction of lemons at the Roman tables. Juba, king of Mauritania, was the first who exhibited them at his dinners. And Athenæus introduces Democritus as not wondering that old people made wry mouths at the taste of lemons ; for, adds he, “in my grandfather’s time, they were never set upon the table.”

The great use of lemons began with the introduction of sugar, which is said to have resulted from the conquest of Sicily, by the Arabs, in the ninth century. Sestini, in his Letters from Sicily and Turkey, thinks that the best sorts of lemons, and the best sorts of Sherbet, were derived from Florence by the Sicilians. Probably Rome continued, even in the dark ages, to be the chief seat of luxury and refinement ; and had domesticated the art of making lemonade, before either Messina or Florence.

ALCOMBE.

ALCOMBE, (*Ald Combe*, the old valley,) is a manor and pretty village, about half-way between Dunster and Minehead. There are some very good houses, having fine views of the channel, Minehead, &c. The Society of Friends have a small burying ground here, but it is not taken much care of. There is a quarry of good lime-stone close behind the village. A part of Alcombe is within the borough of Minehead, though in the parish of Dunster.

In Domesday Book it appears that Alcombe was held in demesne by William de Mohun. It is thus described in that record :—

“ William de Mohun himself holds AUCOME. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and it was assessed to the geld for one hide. The arable land is sufficient for three ploughs. There is in demesne one plough and four bondmen ; and three villans and four bordars have two ploughs. There are eight acres of meadow, and three furlongs of pasture. It was, and is now, worth twenty shillings.”³⁸

“ William de Mohun has three virgates in demesne, and the villans one virgate. He has one horse, five bullocks, and two hundred sheep.”³⁹

The same William de Mohun gave Alcombe to the priory of Dunster, founded by him at the latter place.

The inclosed lands of this manor having been sold off, the lordship of the manor and the manerial rights, &c. were purchased for a very small sum, under twenty pounds, and are now the property of the Rev. T. S. Escott, of Hartrow.

AVILL.

The hamlet and tithing of AVILL, in this parish, is situated one mile south-west of Dunster. In Domesday Book it is written *Avena*, and is thus described :—

“ Ralph holds of William [de Mohun] AVENA.

³⁸ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 95, b. col. 2.

³⁹ Exon. D. fo. 336.

Aloric held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for half a hide. The arable land is sufficient for two ploughs. There is in the demesne one plough, and five bordars and one villan have half a plough. There is a mill which yields twenty pence annually; and four acres of meadow, two acres of wood, and fifty acres of pasture. This place was, and is now, worth ten shillings."⁴⁰

The Exeter Domesday adds, "that the villan tenant resident here held twelve acres of land." It also notices "that there was one horse in this manor."⁴¹

In the reign of Edward III. there was a family resident here which had assumed the local surname. In the fourth year of that king, Geoffrey de Avill, or Avele, held one carucate of land in this village, of John de Mohun, as of his castle of Dunster. by the service of one knight's fee.

By an inquisition taken in the fifth of Henry V. Thomas Brook, *chevalier*, was found to hold the manor of Avill.⁴²

On the 10th of August, twenty-second of Henry VIII. Sir Arthur Plantagenet, Lord Lisle, paid Sir Andrew Luttrell for the relief of half a knight's fee in this manor, held by him in right of his wife Elizabeth, of the said Sir Andrew, as of his castle of Dunster by knight's service.

In the thirty-second of Henry VIII. John Stocker

⁴⁰ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 95. b.

⁴¹ Exon. D. fo. 337.

⁴² Inq. p. m. 3 Hen. V. No. 54. Calendar, vol. iv. p. 32.

paid a fine after the death of a former John Stocker, for this place, which he held in socage by the rent of four shillings in lieu of all services.

In the thirty-sixth of Elizabeth, John Stocker paid fifty shillings to George Luttrell, esq. for the relief of half a knight's fee here.⁴³

This manor is now the property of Sir T. D. Acland, bart. who holds a court for it and another portion of the same in Carhampton, as mentioned in our account of that parish.

There is an ancient mill belonging to this manor.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this tithing, as assessed to the property tax, was £533, and the county rate is 11s. 6½d.

STANTON.

The hamlet of STANTON in this parish is situate about two miles to the west of Dunster, and a little on the left of the road leading from that place to Porlock. In Domesday Book it is thus described:—

“William de Mohun himself holds STANTON. Wallé⁴⁴ held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for three virgates of land. The arable is sufficient for two ploughs. There are two bondmen; five acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture. Two villans and two bordars have one plough.”

⁴³ Vide original papers in Dunster Castle.

⁴⁴ Excheq. D. vol. i. fo. 95. b. col. 2.

⁴⁴ Wallo, Exon. D.

The Exeter Domesday adds, "William has two virgates and a half in demesne, and the villans half a virgate. When William received it, it was worth seven shillings and sixpence."⁴⁶

"To this manor is added one virgate of land, which was held by a thane in the time of King Edward for a manor. The arable land is sufficient for one plough. There is one bordar, three acres of meadow, and fifty acres of pasture. It is worth three shillings."⁴⁷

In the fourth of Edward III. the manor of Stanton was held by James de Audley, of John de Mohun, as of his castle of Dunster, by the service of one knight's fee.

In the first of Elizabeth, Bartholomew, son and heir of William Frye, did homage to Thomas Luttrell, esq. for one knight's fee for this manor.

In the forty-third of Elizabeth, Nicholas Downe did homage for this manor to George Luttrell, esq. for one knight's fee.⁴⁸

It was afterward the property of the Hall family, and was purchased by an ancestor of the present owner, J. F. Luttrell, esq. of the Rev. — Hall, of Croydon, in Carhampton. This manor is in the borough of Minehead, though in the parish of Dunster.

MARSH.

Marsh, or Higher Marsh, is a hamlet in this parish,

⁴⁶ Exon. D. fo. 338.

⁴⁷ Excheq. D. vol. 1. fo. 95. b. col. 2.

⁴⁸ Vide records in Dunster Castle.

about half a mile north of the town, consisting of one farm house and several cottages.

There is a marsh near this place in the parish of Carhampton, that formerly belonged to the Stewkley family. It was purchased by the late J. F. Luttrell, esq. of the late Lord Stawel.

And a place called Marshwood, two miles at least east from Marsh, in Dunster, which was always an appendage to the castle.

With both of these, former historians have confounded this place.

MEMOIR OF THE REV. ROBERT CROSSE, M. A.

The subject of this memoir was the son of William Crosse, of Dunster, at which town he was born about the year 1605, or at least, says Wood,⁴⁹ in the county of Somerset. In 1621, being then sixteen years of age, he was entered of Lincoln College, Oxford, where employing his studies in philosophy and disputations, he took the degree of bachelor of arts. In December, 1627, he was elected fellow of his college, and taking the degree of master of arts in the following year, he entered into holy orders, became an eminent tutor and a great proficient in the Aristotelian philosophy, and acquired considerable fame in the university as a learned and able man. It would appear that he afterward proceeded B. D. as in the List of the Assembly of

⁴⁹ Ath. Oxon. vol. ii. p. 570.

Divines, printed by Oldmixon,⁵⁰ he is styled bachelor in divinity.

Being puritanically inclined, Mr. Crosse took part with the parliament in the civil wars, and in 1643 was nominated a member of the assembly of divines and subscribed the solemn league and covenant. In 1648, submitting to the parliamentary visitors, he was appointed by the committee for the reformation of the university of Oxford, to succeed Dr. Sanderson, as regius professor of divinity, but refusing to accept it, he had soon afterward conferred upon him the rich vicarage of Chew-Magna in this county. In 1653, he resigned his fellowship of Lincoln College, and settled at Chew, and in the following year was constituted an assistant to the commissioners, appointed by parliament for the ejecting of ignorant and scandalous ministers in the county of Somerset, as the loyal part of the clergy were then called. On the restoration of Charles II. he conformed to the doctrines of the Church of England, and because no person claimed the living of Chew, he continued there to the time of his death.

While Mr. Crosse remained in the university, he was esteemed a learned philosopher and divine, an able preacher, and well versed in the writings of the fathers and schoolmen. During his residence at Chew, he was attacked by the Rev. Joseph Glanvill, of Bath, with the intent to depreciate him in the estimation of the public, on account of his attachment to the Aristotelian philosophy.

⁵⁰ Hist. of the Stuarts, p. 531.

After the Rev. Mr. Glanvill had settled at Bath, and had written against Aristotle and the academical mode of education, as then pursued in the university, several neighbouring scholars endeavoured to bring Mr. Crosse, who was strongly attached to the opposite opinions, to be acquainted with the former gentleman; and in 1667, Glanvill was conducted to Mr. Crosse's house at Chew, where after the usual civilities had passed, Mr. Crosse, in an able manner, vindicated Aristotle and his philosophy; and knowing that Mr. Glanvill was a fellow of the Royal Society, he declaimed with some severity against the proceedings of that learned body. Glanvill being somewhat surprised at this mode of argument, did not then much oppose Mr. Crosse, but he afterward, in a correspondence which took place between them, strongly contested Mr. Crosse's hypothesis, that *Aristotle had more advantages for acquiring knowledge than the Royal Society, or all the learned men of that age had, or could have.* On which a great dispute arose between them; which was much aggravated by Mr. Henry Stubbe, a summer practitioner of medicine at Bath, and a great enemy of the Royal Society, who encouraged Mr. Crosse to write against Glanvill. Soon afterward Mr. Crosse wrote a book which Glanvill called a *fardel*, but Stubbe asserted that it was "a good and seasonable work," but nevertheless it was rejected by the licenser at Oxford, Dr. Fell, and at London, as Glanvill adds for its "incomparable railing and impertinence." Glanvill, however, obtained

a copy of this work, and sent it to Dr. Ingelo, of Eton College, who transmitted it to London, where it was printed, and intitled, "the Chew Gazette," and distributed privately, (one hundred copies only, no more being printed) "to the end," as Glanvill says, "that his opponent's shame might not be made public; and that a specimen of the learning he shews in school scraps and little ends of verse, and children's phrases, which are all his reading, might be discovered." After this retort of Glanvill's, Mr. Crosse employed himself in writing ballads against him, and endeavoured to make him and the Royal Society appear ridiculous; whilst some Oxford wags who seemed to be highly pleased with these controversies, composed a ballad in doggrel verse upon both, beginning

"Two gospel knights,
Both learned wights,
And Somerset's renown-a,
The one in village of the shire,
But vicarage too great I fear,
The other lives in town-a." &c.

We have the authority of Glanvill for mentioning that Mr. Crosse wrote a work entitled "Biographia," in which he gives certain rules for writing the lives of eminent men. This was intended as a satire upon Dr. Fell's Life of Dr. Hammond, because Fell had refused to license Mr. Crosse's book against Glanvill.

At length Mr. Crosse having lived to a good old age, departed this life on the 12th of December, 1683, and

was buried in his church of Chew-Magna, leaving behind him, says Wood, the character of an able theologian and philosopher.

Mr. Crosse published "*Exercitatio Theologica de Insipientia Rationis Humanæ Gratiâ Christi Destitutæ, in rebus fidei, 1 Cor. ii. 14.* Oxon. 1655." quarto.

Local surname.—I find one John *de Dunster*, prior of Bath in 1406; he died on the 6th of February, 1411, when the chapter of Bath requested permission of the bishop to choose a prior in his room, which being granted, John de Tellesford, a monk of Dunster, was elected on the 10th of March, 1411, fourteen of the Bath monks and five of the Dunster monks being present.⁵⁰

John *de Dunster* occurs M. P. for Bath in 1330.

There was a family of the name of DUNSTER, which resided at Donyat, near Ilminster. Of this family was JOHN DUNSTER, who was born at Donyat, and was made demy of Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1598, being then sixteen years of age; perpetual fellow, 1602; afterward M. A.; proctor of the university, 1611; and at length chaplain to Archbishop Abbot, who bestowed upon him a benefice or dignity about 1613; in which year Dunster resigned his fellowship. He wrote, 1. "*Cæsar's Penny*, a sermon on 1 Peter ii. 13, 14. Oxon. 1610," 8vo.; and 2. "*Prodromus; or, a Literal*

⁵⁰ Warner's Hist. of Bath, p. 133.

Exposition of Psalm lxxix. concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, Lond. 1613, 8vo. In his younger days, being esteemed a poet by his contemporaries, he had several copies of verses printed in various books, especially in that made by the society of Magdalen College, on the death of William, son of Arthur Grey, Lord Grey de Wilton, who died Feb. 18th, 1605.

There was a *John Dunster*, who died Oct. 14th, 1625, and was buried in the church of Alhallows, Bread Street, London, who gave, *inter alia*, £200, which purchased £12 per annum for ever towards the reparation of the same; besides £200 which he gave towards the then building thereof.⁵¹

GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE BARONIAL FAMILY OF
MOHUN, OF DUNSTER.⁵²

Sir William Dugdale, in his history of this family,⁵³ says, that Sir William de Mohun accompanied William,

⁵¹ Newcourt, Repertorium, vol. i. p. 244.—Wood's *Athenæ Oxon.* by Bliss, vol. ii. p. 142.

⁵² The family of MOHUN appear to have borne for their arms two coats. Anciently they bore *Gules*, a dexter arm habited in a maunch, *Ermine*, the hand, *Proper*, holding a fleur de lys, *Or*. The last John de Mohun, who died about the forty-eighth of Edward III. (1374) bore for his arms, *Or*, a cross engrailed, *Sable*. Both these coats were borne by the monastery of Brewton, which this family had founded.—See SPEN'S Map of Somersetshire; DUGDALE'S Warwickshire, 1730, p. 587; and TANNER'S *Notitia Monastica*, by Nasmith, where they are engraved. The Lords Mohun, of Oakhampton, bore the latter coat.

⁵³ *Baronage* vol. i. p. 497.

duke of Normandy, in the invasion of England, and was an able commander in his army, "having then in his retinue not less than forty-seven stout knights of name and note;" and Leland, in his *Collectanea*,⁴⁴ has given a list of their names, but he makes them fifty-seven. The latter author thus speaks of the arrival of the duke of Normandy:—"In the year of our Lord 1066, on Saturday, the feast of St. Calixtus, came William, duke of Normandy, cousin of the noble king St. Edward, son of Emma of England, and killed King Harold, and took from him his lands, by the assistance of Normans and other people of different countries; among whom there came with him William de Mohun the elder, the noblest of all the host. The said William de Mohun had in his retinue all the great lords hereafter named."

For his great services at the battle of Hastings and afterward, he obtained from the Conqueror fifty-five manors in the county of Somerset, eleven in the county of Dorset, the manor of Clehanger, in the county of Devon, and that of Sutton, in the county of Wilts. Sir William Dugdale says, that he also held the manor of Whichford, in the county of Warwick, but this does not appear in Domesday Book. After he was settled in England, he built the castle at Dunster, which became the seat of his residence and the head of his barony. He founded a priory for Benedictine monks

⁴⁴ Vol. i. p. 202.

at the same place, which he added as a cell to the priory of Bath, and gave thereto the church of St. George, at Dunster, as also the manor of Alcombe, with the tithes of all his *vineyards*⁵⁵ and arable lands at Dunster and Carhampton, and at his death was buried in the priory at Bath.⁵⁶

The barony of Mohun, similar to every other, consisted of the demesne lands held by the barons themselves, and of other manors and lands granted to their dependants, to hold of them by military service, or the service of so many knights in the same manner as they held the lands of their barony of the king. Before the death of King Henry I. in 1135, this barony consisted of forty knights' fees of the old feoffment, and previously to the twelfth of Henry II. (1166) it had been increased by four knights' fees; for William de Mohun the fourth of that name, then returned to the barons of the exchequer, that he held forty fees of the old and four of the new feoffment,⁵⁷ although two years afterward he only paid the aid for forty-one fees in all. In the nineteenth of Henry III. Reginald de Mohun accounted for the scutage of that year for thirty-four knights' fees and the fourth part of another.

Upon the establishment of the Normans in England, the Conqueror conferred the estates of such of the

⁵⁵ There is a field in Dunster still called the Vineyards.

⁵⁶ Collinson says he was buried in Dunster Church. See Leland's *Collectanea*, vol. i. p. 203.

⁵⁷ Hearne's *Liber Niger Scaccar.* vol. i. pp. 91, 92.

Saxon thanes, as had fallen in the battle of Hastings, on his principal followers as strict feuds; to be held immediately of himself, by fealty, homage, and military or other honourable services. These were *feuda nobilia*, and the persons to whom they were given, became by such grants, English nobles; and when about the twentieth year of William's reign, the tenure of all the lands in England was declared to be feudal, those who held immediately of the crown by military or other honourable services constituted the nobility, or first class of persons in the kingdom.

Every barony had a principal mansion or castle upon it, which was called the *caput baroniæ*, or head of the barony; and was so appropriated to the person entitled to the barony, that a widow was not dowable of it. And where a barony descended to daughters, the *caput baroniæ* was allotted to the eldest.⁵⁸

In the subsequent account of this family, with a view of giving a correct statement of the extent of this barony, I have added the certificate of William de Mohun the fourth, of his knight's fees, and returned by him into the Court of Exchequer in 1166, on the payment of the aid for the marriage of the king's eldest daughter; and afterward a list of the knight's fees held of the barony of Dunster in the fourth year of King Edward III:

The first William de Mohun held in his own hands,

⁵⁸ Cruise.

as appears from Domesday Book, the manors of Torre, (now Dunster) "where," says the record, "is his castle;" Stockland, *Seddamtone*, Cutcombe, Minehead, Alcombe, Broadwood, Stanton, Exford, [West] Quantockshead, Kilton, Newton, Wolverton, Broomfield, Lydeard [St. Lawrence] [West] Bagborough, Stoke [Pero] and Brewham, all in the county of Somerset; and in Dorsetshire he held the manors of Spettisbury, Pulham, and Ham [Mohun.]

Besides these, which formed the demesne lands of the barony of Mohun of Dunster, the same William granted to the following persons the undermentioned manors to be held of him by military or knights' service:—

To Hugh the manors of *Tetesberge*,⁵⁹ Torweston, and Holford.

To Garmund, or Warmund, the manors of Ailgi, (Vellow) and Eireton.

To Robert the manor of Kibworth (jointly with Mainfred) and Leigh, in the county of Somerset, and the manor of Clehanger in Devon. This Robert also held a manor of William de Mohun, in Frome, Dorset, that was held by Alward in the time of King Edward.

To Roger the manors of Street, Bratton, Ernole, [Oule Knowle] Hartrow, and Stoke [Pero.]

To Turgis, Brompton [Ralph,] Combe, and Nunney.

⁵⁹ Collinson calls this place Edbrook, but I think it is the present Eastbury in Carhampton.

To Ogisus, Clatworthy, in the county of Somerset, and Winterborne, Dorset.

To three soldiers (*milites*) the manor of Langham.

To Mainfred, the manor of Kibworth, (jointly with Robert above-mentioned). Quarum, and Leigh.

To Richard, Biccombe and Bradworthy.

To Ralph, Avill and Heathfield.

To Durand, Stowey, Oaktrow, Allercot, and Brown.

To Geoffrey [Maloret,] Myne in Somerset, and Todbere, Werne, Ewern [Courtenay,] Broad Windsor, and Mapperton in Dorset.

To Nigel, [East] Quantockshead, Badialton, and a manor in Luxborough.

To Dudeman, the manor of Elworthy, Willet, Coleford, Watchet, Runnington, and Poushill.

To Brictric, Shortmansford.

To Ranulph, Manworthy and another manor in Luxborough, in Somerset, and Chelbury in Dorset.

To Walter [Hosatus,] Sutton in Wilts.

To which William de Mohun the first succeeded another William de Mohun, who with Agnes his wife, gave the church of Whichford to the canons of Bridlington,⁶⁰ in Yorkshire, which gift was afterward confirmed by the charter of King Henry I. He likewise gave to the canons of Taunton the manor of Lydeard

⁶⁰ Bridlington Priory.—*Willielmus de Molon et Uxor ejus Agnes dederunt Ecclesiam de Wichesford*.—*Carta R. Henr. primi*.—*Mon. Angl.* vol. ii. p. 163.

St. Lawrence, and left issue William, the third of that name.⁶¹

Which William de Mohun the third was one of the great barons of that time who adhered to the Empress Maud against King Stephen. In 1137, the third of Stephen, the barons of England much discontented with that prince, for having violated the engagements into which he had entered on being raised to the throne, confederated against him, under the command of Robert, earl of Gloucester, in favour of the empress and her son, afterward Henry II., to which party this William de Mohun adhered, and fortified and garrisoned his castle of Dunster, as did also William de Harptree that of Harptree; William de Lovel that of Cary; many other barons then doing the like in different parts of the kingdom. This William, by his frequent excursions, did much mischief in all that part of the country, until Henry de Tracy and the forces under him gave him a check at Barnstaple. In the sixth of Stephen, he was one of those who, with David, king of Scots, Robert, earl of Gloucester, and the rest of the empress's friends, besieged Henry de Blois, bishop of Winchester, brother of King Stephen, in the castle of Winchester, being at that time in consideration of his especial services made earl of Somerset and Dorset by the empress.

⁶¹ Taunton Priory.—Ex dono Willielmi de Moloun terram de Lydiard.—*Mon. Angl.* vol. ii. p. 83.—*Hist. of Taunton*, 8vo. p. 74.

In the year 1142, this William de Mohun founded a priory for canons regular of St. Augustin, at Brewton, in this county, on the ruins of a more ancient religious house for Benedictine monks, built, as it has been said, about the year 1005, by Ethelware, earl of Cornwall. This priory, which was sometime annexed to the abbey of St. Martin, at Trouarn in Normandy, the founder endowed with his manors of Brewton and Brewham, besides many other lands in England and Normandy. At his death, which happened about 1160, he was buried in the church of this monastery, leaving issue William his son and heir, surnamed *Meschin*:

Which William in 1166, (twelfth Henry II.) upon levying the aid for marrying the king's daughter, certified his knight's fees to be in number forty of the old feoffment, and four of the new. The following is a copy of the certificate which he returned to the barons of the exchequer on this occasion:—

“These are the knight's fees of the fee of William de Mohun, in the time of King Henry I.

“William Fitz-Durand holds five knight's fees and a half.

William de Elleworthé, four.

Roger Arundel, three.

Alexander de Badialtone, three.

Hugh de Gundeville, two.

Talebot de Hathefelde, two.

Reimer Tornach, one fee and a half.

William de St. Leger, one.

Geoffrey de Ver, one.

Geoffrey Hosat, one.

Ralph Husat, one.

John Croc, one.

Thomas de Campo Florido, one.

Walter de Lega, one.

Robert Waleys, (Walenois) one.

Robert Fitz-Geoffrey, one fee and a half.

Robert Dumaz, half a fee.

Matthew de Combe and Nicol, one.

Simon Bret, (Brito) half a fee.

Ralph Dacus, (Dennis) half a fee.

William de Punchardun, two fees.

Robert de Bratton, one fee.

Richard de Langham, one fee.

Gerbert de Perci, one.

Roger de Newburgh, one.

William de Curci, one.

“These are the knight’s fees of the new feoffment:—

William de Curci holds one knight’s fee.

Robert Bozun, one.

Luke de Campo Florido, one.

Hugh de Punchardun, half a fee.

Richard de London, half a fee.”

But though he certified his knight’s fees to be forty-four in number, yet in the fourteenth of the same reign, he paid for no more than forty-one; neither in the eighth of Richard I., upon collecting the second

and third scutages of Normandy. This William confirmed his father's grants to the priory of Brewton,⁶² and at his death was interred in that monastery, leaving issue Reginald.

In the fourth of John, this Reginald de Mohun⁶³ was required by the king to accept of lands in England in exchange for his lands at Lyons, near Caen, in Normandy. And two years afterward, having had livery of the castle of Dunster and other the lands of his inheritance, married Alice, one of the sisters and co-heiresses of William de Briwere the younger,⁶⁴ with whom he had for her purparty of the Briwere estates,

⁶² Collinson says at Dunster.—See LELAND's *Collectanea ubi supra*.

⁶³ Pat. Rot. 3. Joh. m. 5.—De Castro de Dunsterre firmando.—Cal. p. i. col. 1.

Pat. Rot. 6 Joh. m. 10.—Rex reddidit Reginaldo de Moyon Castrum de Dunsterre ac alias Terras suas.—Ibid. p. ii. col. 2.

There is "a copy in parchment" among the muniments at Dunster Castle, "of two grants of William and Reginald Moyn, to the monks and canons of the priory of Brewton, to elect their prior out of their own house after every voydance, and to present him to them and their heirs for their approbation and admission, before the execution of his office; their ancestors being founders of that priory, the patronage whereof afterward came to the Luttrells." (These grants are supposed by Mr. Prynne to belong to the reign of Henry III. but I am inclined to think the first is a grant of William de Mohun, called *Meschin*, who died before 1202, and the other of his son, Reginald de Mohun, who died in the fifteenth of John, 1213. J. S.) The canons presented under these grants—John de Grindleham, 1274. John Schoyle, 1418 to Hugh Luttrell. Richard Glastonbury, 1429, to John Luttrell. John Henton, 1448, to the Hon. James Luttrell. William Gylbert, 1495, to Hugh Luttrell. John Elye, 1532, to Sir Andrew Luttrell.—PRYNNE's Index.

⁶⁴ This Alice de Briwere is set down among the benefactors to the new cathedral church of Salisbury, having contributed thereto all the marble necessary for the building thereof for twelve years.—LELAND's *Itinerary*, vol. iii. p. 95.

the manors of Axminster, Torre, (afterward called Torre-Mohun) Bradworthy, Ugborough, Little Cadleigh, and many other lands and knight's fees in the counties of Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, as also the advowson of the abbey of Torre. By this lady he had issue two sons, Reginald, his successor, and John, the founder of the Mohuns of Ham-Mohun, in the county of Dorset.

This Reginald de Mohun departed this life in the fifteenth of King John, 1213, on which the wardship of Reginald his son and heir, with the benefit of his marriage and custody of his lands, was committed to Henry Fitz-Count, son of the earl of Cornwall;⁶⁸ Alice, his widow, then surviving, who had for her dowry the manors of Torre, Ugborough, Cadleigh, Halberton, Oakford, Bradworthy, and Axminster, in the county of Devon; the manor of Ile [Brewers] and 4s. 7½*d.* rent issuing out of the manor of Trent, in the county of Somerset. This lady afterward married William Paganel.

Which Reginald, commonly called Reginald de Mohun the second, was, in the twenty-sixth of Henry III., constituted chief-justice of all the forests south of Trent; and in the thirty-sixth of the same reign, was

⁶⁸ *Testa de Nevill*, p. 167, col. 1.—Reginald de Mohun est in custodia Henr. Comitis Cornub. et Terra sua de Dunnestorr valet L. Marc. in *Hundr. de Karenton*.

Item, *idem* Reginaldus est in Custodia ejusdem H. et Terre de Hosinton et Chrintan valet L. Marc.—*Ibid.* p. 167, col. 2.

appointed governor of Sauvey Castle, in the county of Leicester. In the forty-first of the same reign, he had summons to attend the king at Bristol, well fitted with horses and arms, to march with him against the Welch.

In 1246, this Reginald de Mohun, who is called by Tanner,⁶⁶ earl of Somerset, founded, by permission of Henry III. the abbey of Newenham for Cistercian monks, situate in the parish of Axminster. He endowed this monastery with the manor and hundred of Axminster, as also with one hundred marks per annum, during his life, towards the fabric thereof, and likewise by his will gave seven hundred marks. He also gave them the advowson of the church of Luppit.

Sir William Dugdale says that he died about the forty-first of Henry III. (1256) leaving issue by [Hawise] his first wife, who was sister of Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford and Essex, (with whom he had the manor of Stretleigh) John his son and heir; and by Isabel [de Basset] his second wife,⁶⁷ daughter of William de Ferrers, earl of Derby, and one of the co-heiresses of Sybilla, her mother, sister and co-heiress of Anselm Marshall, earl of Pembroke; William, a younger son,⁶⁸ who had by the gift of his father the manors of Ottery, Stoke-Fleming, Monkton, and Galmeton, which, with other lands, were purchased of

⁶⁶ Not. Monast.

⁶⁷ See Prince's Devon, under Blondy.

⁶⁸ He had also a third son, Robert de Mohun, who in the fifth of Edward I. (1277) performed military service due from his brother John.—See PALGRAVE's *Writs of Military Summons*, vol. i. p. 740.

William Fleming; as also the manor of Mildenhall, in the county of Wilts, and that of Greywell, in the county of Hants. This William de Mohun⁶⁹ purchased the manor of Norton and hundred of Stratton, and gave them to the monks of Newenham. He married Beatrix, daughter of Reginald Fitz-Peter, by whom he had two daughters, his co-heiresses, namely, Eleanor married to John de Carew, and Mary to John de Meriet, between whom the lands of which he died possessed were afterward partitioned; Beatrix, his widow, having for her dowry the manor of Mildenhall, and those of Stoke-Fleming, Galmeton, and Sturminster-Marshall.

In 1277, (fifth Edward I.) this William de Mohun was summoned to perform military service in person against Llewellyn, prince of Wales, and to be at Worcester on the 1st of July. And in the tenth of the same king, 1282, he was again summoned to be at Worcester on the 17th of May, to go in person against the Welch;

⁶⁹ Mand. est Vic. Somers. quod cap. in manum R. omnes Terr. et ten. de quibus Will. de Mohun qui de R. ten. in cap. oblit sels.—Abbrev. Rot. Orig. 10 Edw. I. rot. 14. vol. 1. p. 42.

R. commisit Rob. fil. Johis Custodiam Terrar. et ten. in Com. Bed. que fuerent Will. de Moun def. qui de R. tenuit in cap. habend. ad voluntatem R. Ita quod R. inde respondent p. annum duodecim libr. et decem et novum solid. etc.—Ibid. 11 Edw. I. rot. 2.—Ibid. p. 43.

Mand. est S. Waterford Epo. Justic. Hibern. quod cap. in man. R. omnes Terr. et ten. q. fuerent Will. de Mohun def.—Ibid. 11 Edw. I. rot. 1. vol. 1. p. 43.

Mand. est Vic. Soms. quod de bonis et catal. q. fuerunt Will. de Moun nup. defuncti levati fac. decem libr. quas recepit in Wall. p. vadis suis et quas non fco. servicio suo asportavit. Ita quod eas habeat in garder. R., &c.—Ibid. rot. 12.

and again to be at Rhudlan on the 2nd of August in the same year; soon after which he died; for in that year, by an inquisition post mortem, he was found to be possessed of the manor of Magor, in Wales; of Luton, in Bedfordshire; of Sturminster-Marshall, in Dorsetshire; of Tuderton, in the county of Somerset; the manor of Greywell, in the county of Hants; of the manor of Mildenhall; and of the manors of Galmeton, Monkton, Ottery-Mohun, and Stoke-Fleming; and lands in Otford, Cadeleigh, and Ugborough; and also of divers lands and manors in Ireland.⁷⁰

I now come to John, the son and heir of the last-mentioned Reginald, by his first wife. In 1277, (fifth Edw. I.) this John de Mohun was summoned to perform military service in person against Llewellyn, prince of Wales, and to attend the muster at Worcester on the first of July; in pursuance of which summons he acknowledged the service of three knight's fees for the inheritance of his grandfather, Reginald de Mohun, performed by himself and two knights, namely, Robert de Mohan, his brother, and Thomas de Pyn; and also one fifth of the service due for the inheritance of the earl marshal; and one fifth of the service theretofore due from William de Briwere, the amount whereof he knew not. His service and that of the knights appearing with him, were transferred by the king to

⁷⁰ See the Calendar of Inq. p. m. 10 and 12 Edw. I. vol. i. p. 73. No. 19 and p. 83. No. 22.

Edmund, earl of Lancaster, to be performed under the latter in West Wales.⁷¹

This John died in Gascony⁷² in the seventh of Edw. I. (1279) and the writs of *Diem clausit extremum* issued upon his death are tested at Windsor on the 14th of July. By the inquisitions taken thereon, it was found that John de Mohun his son and heir, was then of the age of ten years or thereabouts; and that at the time of his death he was seized of the castle and manor of Dunster, and fifty-five knight's fees thereto belonging; and also of the manors of Carhampton, Cutcombe, Minehead, Ile-Brewers, and Kilveton, all in the county of Somerset; Torre-Mohun, Braworth, Cadeleigh, and Ugborough, in the county of Devon; Eleanor his wife surviving, who had for her dowry twenty-seven knight's fees and a ninth part, in the counties of Somerset, Dorset, and Devon.

Sir William Dugdale, in his Account of the Family of Mohun, makes this John to have married the daughter [called *Joan*, by Hutchins, in the History of Dorset]⁷³ of Sir Reginald Fitz-Peter, and mentions another wife, Eleanor, who survived him, and had for her dower twenty-seven knight's fees and a ninth part,

⁷¹ Palgrave's Writs of Military Serv., &c. vol. i. p. 740.

⁷² Inq. p. m. 7 Edw. I. No. 13.—Joh. de Mohun, Dunsterre Castr. Maner. 55 Feodi eidem pertin. Carumpton Maner. Codecombe Maner. Meneheved Maner. Kelveten Maner. Ile Bruer Maner. all in the county of Somerset; and the manor of Luton, in the county of Bedford, &c.—See Calendar of Inq. p. m. vol. i. p. 66. No. 13.

⁷³ Vol. ii. p. 124.

as above-mentioned; but he does not say whose daughter this Eleanor was, nor does he distinguish by which of those wives he had *John*, the second of that name, his son and heir. There is, undoubtedly, some mistake or omission in this account. Joan Ferrers, fifth daughter of William Ferrers, earl of Derby, by Sybil, fourth daughter of William Marshall, earl of Pembroke, was certainly one of his wives, and perhaps the first; and by her probably he had John, the aforesaid heir; for it is certain that the lands which John de Mohun her husband had with her in marriage, namely, the manor of Sturminster-Marshall, and a third part of the hundred of Loosebarrow, in the county of Dorset, remained to her successors till the family of Mohun became extinct, and descended by one of the co-heiresses of the last John de Mohun of Dunster, to the Lord Strange, of Knokyn. This Joan de Ferrers was first married before the forty-eighth of Henry III. to William, son of William de Aguillon; which William, in the fifty-third of the same reign, married Margaret de Ripariis, countess of Devon, by whom he had Isabel, the wife of Hugh Bardolph; so that Joan seems to have been divorced, and had no issue by him. William de Aguillon died in the fourteenth of Edward I. This Joan married secondly John de Mohun of Dunster, of whom we are now treating, of whom she appears to have been the first wife.

Which John, his eldest son, called John de Mohun

the second,⁷⁴ in 1294, (twelfth Edward I.) was excepted from the general summons of persons holding by military service in the expedition made that year into Gascony. In 1297, he was summoned to perform military service in person in Flanders, and to attend the muster at Sandwich, on the 24th of November. In 1299, (twenty-seventh Edward I.) he was in the parliament then held at Westminster; and in the same year was summoned as a baron to perform military service in person against the Scots, and to be at Carlisle on the 6th of June, from which attendance and service he was discharged, but ordered to be ready to proceed on the king's service at any time after receiving forty days' notice. In the same year he was ordered to go in person against the Scots, and to be at York on the 12th of November. In 1300, (twenty-eighth Edw. I.) he was again summoned to parliament; soon after which he was ordered by a special writ to go in person against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Carlisle on the 24th of June. He was also in the same year returned from the counties of Somerset and Dorset, as holding

⁷⁴ An inquisition taken in the fourteenth of Edward I. contains a catalogue of the knight's fees belonging to this John de Mohun in the several counties of Somerset, Devon, Dorset, Hants, Cambridge, and Warwick.—See Calendar of Inq. p. m. vol. i. p. 90. No. 23.

By an inquisition taken in the thirty-second of Edward I. it appears that there was a John de Mohun who was in possession of the new castle of Mackenegan, of Grange Mohun, and of lands and tenements in Ardacoll, Ackingham, Carbury, Kildare, the town of Disetnemyll, &c. all in Ireland.—See Calendar of Inq. p. m. vol. i. p. 195. No. 174.

lands or rents, either in capite or otherwise, to the amount of £400 yearly value and upwards. In the following year he was again summoned to parliament, and by the style and title of John de Mohun, lord of Dunster, (*Dominus de Dunsterre*) joined in the letter addressed to the pope, on the part as well of the persons named therein as of the community (*communitas*) of England. He was also summoned to go in person against the Scots, and to be at Berwick on the 24th of June. In 1302, (thirtieth Edward I.) he was in the parliament held at Westminster in the same year. In the following year he was ordered to go in person against the Scots, and to be at Berwick on the 26th of May. In 1305, (thirty-third Edward I.) he was summoned to the parliament then held at Westminster, and also in the following year, for the purpose of treating upon an aid for making the king's eldest son a knight. Two years after he was in the parliament then held at Carlisle, and his name entered upon the roll.⁷⁵

In the twenty-seventh of Edward I. he gave the king all his lands in Ireland, as well those in the county of Kildare as elsewhere, in exchange for the manor of Long Compton, in the county of Warwick, to hold to him the said John and Auda his wife, the daughter of Sir Robert de Tibetot, and the heirs male of their two bodies for ever.

In the eighth of Edward II. he obtained a charter of

⁷⁵ Palgrave's *Writs of Military Service*, &c. vol. i. p. 740.

free warren for himself and her the said Auda, throughout all their demesne lands in the manor of Garinge, in the county of Oxford; and in the same year he had summons to be at Berwick-upon-Tweed upon the festival of our lady, thence to march against the Scots.

By an inquisition taken in the fourth of Edward III. on the death of this John de Mohun, it appears that the following persons held lands by military service of the barony of Dunster:—⁷⁶

Walter de Whedon holds six oxgangs of land in Whedon, by the service of half a knight's fee.

John le Bret holds of the same John de Mohun the manor of Torweston, by the service of one knight's fee.

Walter de Furneaux holds the hamlet of Holford by the service of one knight's fee.

John de Bures holds the manor of Ayly (now Vellow) by the service of half a knight's fee.

Margaret de Botreaux holds the manor of Sherrington, by the service of one knight's fee.

The prior of Taunton holds the manor of Thurloxton, by the service of one knight's fee.

Henry Champflower holds the manor of Wyke, by the service of one knight's fee.

Walter de Wilton holds the hamlet of Tokebere, by the service of three parts of a knight's fee.

Nicholas de Barton holds two carucates of land in Morebath, by the service of one knight's fee.

⁷⁶ Inq. p. m. 4 Edw. III. No. 36.

William Cheyney holds the manor of Pointington, by the service of one knight's fee.

Thomas West holds the hamlet of Houndston, by the service of one knight's fee.

William de Thorn holds Thorne-Falcon, by the service of two parts of a knight's fee.

Thomas de Arundel holds the manor of Clatworthy, by the service of one knight's fee.

John Durborough holds the manor of Heathfield, by the service of one knight's fee.

William de Poulesbill and Hilary de Badialton hold the hamlet of Badialton, by the service of one knight's fee.

James de Audley holds the manor of Stanton, by the service of one knight's fee.

John de Ralegh holds the manor of Allerford, by the service of one knight's fee.

Philip de Columbers holds the manor of Heathfield-Columbers, by the service of half a knight's fee.

Geoffrey de Avill holds one carucate of land in Avill, by the service of half a knight's fee.

William Everard holds the hamlets of Owle-Knolle, Linch, and Langham, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.

Robert de Biccombe holds four oxgangs of land in Biccombe, by the service of the third part of a knight's fee.

John de Durborough holds four oxgangs of land in Biccombe, by the service of a third part of a knight's fee.

John de Bratton holds two carucates of land in Bratton, by the service of half a knight's fee.

Walter Meriet holds Biccombe, Ellesworth, Willet, and Mapperton-Bret, in the county of Dorset, by the service of four knight's fees.

The same Walter holds Luxborough-Everard, Oak-trow, and Allercot, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.

The abbot of Cleeve holds Luxborough-Picket, by the service of half a knight's fee.

Walter de Whedon holds five oxgangs of land in Whedon, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.

Roger Attewalle and William de Pavely hold West-Quantockshead, by the service of one knight's fee.

The last-mentioned John de Mohun died, as we have already said, in the fourth of Edward III. being then seized of the manors of Dunster, Minehead, and Kilveton, in the county of Somerset ; of Torre-Mohun and Ugborough, in the county of Devon ; Greywell, in the county of Hants ; and Long-Compton and Whichford, in the county of Warwick ; leaving John his grandson, namely, son of John his eldest son, who died in his life-time, his next heir, at that time ten years of age.⁷⁷

⁷⁷ See Calendar of Inq. p. m. 4 Edw. III. vol. ii. p. 31. No. 35, for a list of his knight's fees.

Inq. post Mort. Johannis de Mohun 4 Edw. III. it was found that the value of the castle and manor of Dunster was *℥cxv viiis. iij. ob. quad.* ; Mineheved

Which John being in ward to Bartholomew de Burghersh, at the special instance of him the said Bartholomew, obtained livery of his lands in the fifteenth of Edward III. doing his homage, although not then of full age, being the same year in the Scottish wars.⁷⁸ And in the year ensuing, being in the retinue of the same Bartholomew, he was in the expedition then made into France. Moreover in the eighteenth of Edward III. he had livery of his lands in Ireland, which by the death of John, his grandfather, hereditarily descended to him. And in the nineteenth of the same reign served the king again in his wars in France, in the retinue of the same Bartholomew, whose daughter Joan he had married.⁷⁹ In the twenty-first and twenty-second of

value *£xxxij jxs. vd. ob. quad. per annum*; and Kylveton as part of the manor of Dunster value *£xxij xjxs. ld. per annum*."—*PRYNNE's Index*.

⁷⁸ By an inquisition taken in the 5th of Edw. III. it was found that John de Mohun, of Hamme, was possessed of the manor of Hamme-Mohun and a mill at Bydeville, in the county of Dorset.—See Calendar of Inq. p. m. vol. ii. p. 40. No. 80.

In the twelfth of Edward III. Thomas Arundel was found to hold a moiety of three cottages and fifty acres of mountain land of the heirs of John Mohun, of Dunster.—*Ibid.* p. 83. No. 20.

In the forty-ninth of Edward III. John de Mohun, of Dunster, enfeoffed Nigel de Loryng of the fourth part of the manor of Luton, in the county of Bedford.—*Ibid.* p. 351. No. 4.

⁷⁹ R. p. viginti *Libr.* concessit et hic. dedit Joh. de Mohun dno. de Dunsterr. quod ipse reversione. Manerlor. de Odecombe, Greywell, et Sturmemynecestr. Marshall. cum pertin. ac alior Terrarum et ten. cum pertin. in Carampton et Colveston q. etc. concedere possit Will. de Hothorp et Ric. Koc bend. sub. cta forma.—Abbrev. Rot. Original. 22 Edw. III. Rot. 45. Somers.

Joanna domina de Mohun tenuit Castrum de Dunsterre, ac Maneria de Myneheved; Carampton, et Kylveton cum pertin. &c.—Inq. ad quod dampnum, 7 Hen. IV. No. 46, b.

Edward III. he was again in those wars, as also in the twenty-ninth of the same reign, and four years afterward he was in the expedition then made into Gascony. In the forty-third of Edward III. he was again in the wars of France, being then of the retinue of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster ; and in the forty-seventh of the same reign, in the expedition made into Flanders, in which year he had his last summons to parliament. This John, Lord de Mohun,⁸⁰ was one of the first knights of the most noble order of the garter.

When he died Sir William Dugdale says he could not find ; but it appears his death took place about the forty-ninth of Edward III. He left issue three daughters, his co-heiresses, (Joan his wife surviving) namely, Philippa, married to Edward, duke of York,⁸¹ and after his death to Sir Walter Fitz-Walter, and died ; Elizabeth to William de Montacute, earl of Salisbury;⁸² and Maud to John, Lord Strange of Knockyn.

⁸⁰ Of this John de Mohun it is recorded, that upon a petition of the inhabitants of Dunster for certain lands adjoining to the town, whereon to depasture their cattle freely and in common, he allowed his lady, Joan Mohun, who supplicated in the townsmen's behalf, as much land as she could go round in one day barefooted for the purpose above-mentioned. Although this seems to rest merely on tradition, yet certain it is, that a great number of privileges flowed from the house of Mohun, to this and other manors that were held under it.—COLLINSON, ii. p. 9.

⁸¹ There is, or was, a monument in St. Nicholas's Chapel, Westminster Abbey, to the memory of the duchess of York, with her effigy in robes. She died in 1433, without issue.

⁸² Elizabeth, the second daughter of John, Lord Mohun, and wife of William Montacute, earl of Salisbury, died in the second of Henry V. By the inquisition taken on her death she appears to have had large possessions and amongst

It appears by the inquisitions that the Lady Joan, wife of the last John de Mohun,⁸³ died in the sixth of Henry IV. as in that year she was found to be possessed of the castle of Dunster, the manor and hundred of Carhampton, the manors of Cutcombe, Minehead, and Kilveton, in the county of Somerset; of the manors of Ugborough, Bradworth, and Bury-Pomeroy, in the county of Devon; of the third part of the hundred of Loosebarrow and the manors of Sturminster-Marshall and Kingston-Lacy, in the county of Dorset; of the manor of Garinge, in the county of Oxford, held of the honour of Wallingford; of the manors of Greywell and Compton, and certain suits of court in Odiham, in the county of Hants; and of the manor of Whichford, with the advowson of the church of that place, in the county of Warwick.⁸⁴

them the manor of Cutcombe, and one knight's fee in Exton.—Inq. p. m. 2 Hen. V. No. 39.—Cal. vol. iv. p. 9.

⁸³ The Lady Mohun of Dunster, a liberal benefactress to the cathedral church of Canterbury, who died in the beginning of the fifteenth century, has a handsome monument in the undercroft, on the side of the Lady Chapel in that church. The canopy consists of six pointed arches, supported by three pillars. The tomb is plain, on which reclines her effigy of stone, clad in a boddice, with a stomacher of jewels, petticoat and mantle, and a reticulated head dress. At her head are the attendant angels.—Woolnorn's Hist. of Canterb. Cath. p. 92.

⁸⁴ See Calendar of Inq. p. m. 6 Hen. IV. vol. iil. p. 302. No. 33.

Among the muniments at Dunster Castle, there is an indenture dated in the twenty-fifth of Edward III. (1351) of Sir John de Mohun, lord of Dunster, and Joan his wife, to Bartholomew de Burghersh, and others, and their heirs, of the castle and manors of Dunster, Carhampton, Radhuish, and Marshwood, rendering for the first four years a rose, and afterward £400 per annum rent, with a note of the deeds concerning the same then delivered, to the number of forty-three.

The three daughters and co-heiresses of the last-mentioned John, Lord Mohun, should have jointly inherited the patrimonial estates; but it appears that a deed and fine had been made and levied by the said

Also a release of Matthew de Clevedon, of the castle and manors of Dunster, Carhampton, Radhuish, and Marshwood; and the advowson of the churches, to Sir John Mohun, and Joan his wife, and their heirs, twenty-ninth of Edward III. and a letter of attorney of Bartholomew Burgherah, to make livery and seisin of the castle of Dunster to John Mohun.

The copy of an assize and the proceedings and pleadings therein brought by Edward, duke of York, and Philippa his wife, and others, against Sir Hugh Luttrell and others, eighth of Henry IV. for the castle and manors of Dunster, Minehead, and Carhampton, wherein most of the fines and conveyances thereof, made by Sir John Mohun and Joan his wife in the reign of King Edward III. are expressed, and how they descended to Sir Hugh Luttrell, by virtue of a fine levied in the fiftieth of Edward III. by Simon, archbishop of Canterbury, and other feoffees in trust to the Lady Joan Mohun, wife to Sir John Mohun, for her life, the remainder to Elizabeth Luttrell, John Wermington, and the heirs of the said Elizabeth, to whom the said Hugh Luttrell was heir, and entered into these manors after her death. There are two other papers relating thereto included within it, and three copies in parchment of the petition of the commons in the parliament of Henry IV. unto the king, for a friendly and speedy end of this suit between those great persons, much delayed by the judges.

It is probable that Richard Courtenay, bishop of Norwich, was another of these trustees, for I find by the Inq. taken on his death, in the third of Henry V. that he held the castle of Dunster, the manor of Torweston, and lands in Watchet, Williton, and Stoke-Gomer.—Inq. p. m. 3 Hen. V. No. 49.

Among the patent rolls in the sixth of Henry IV. there are divers fines and other records relating to the castle and manor of Dunster, and the manors of Carhampton, Minehead, and Kilveton, between John de Mohun, knight, and Sir Hugh Luttrell, knight.

"Divers. Fines ac alia Recorda concernen. Castrum et Manerium de Dunsterre et de Maneriis de Carhampton, Myneheved, et Culveton, inter Joh. de Mohun, milit. etc. ad requisicionem Hugonis Luttrell, militis."—2 Pat. 6 Hen. IV. m. 26.

In Brewton Church there are some noble tombs for the Mohuns, not noticed by Collinson.—Gough's Camden, vol. i. p. 99.

lord, their father, sometime before his death, of the barony, honour, and manor of Dunster, together with the manors of Minehead and Kilton, and the Hundred of Carhampton, which he thereby vested in the archbishop of Canterbury and other trustees, for such uses as his wife, the Lady Joan, should declare, in case she survived him. In pursuance of which deed the said Lady Mohun, in the fiftieth of Edward III. sold the reversion of the said premises to the Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, relict of Sir Andrew Luttrell, of Chilton, in the county of Devon, and daughter of Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devonshire. This sale being absolute, great suits at law arose on the part of the duke of York and the Lord Strange, of Knokyn, who, as it has been before observed, married two of the daughters of the said John, Lord Mohun; and they set forth another deed, whereby the said Sir John had entailed the same lands on the heirs of his body; and for that and other reasons disputed the power he had of making a different disposal.

The circumstances of this suit having occasioned great discussions among the judges in point of law, the parliament interfered,⁸⁵ and first petitioned the king that he would give a peremptory order to the judges to give their opinion; and by a second petition in the first of Henry IV. desired that he would order the dispute to a reference; it being their opinion that the

⁸⁵ Rot. Parl. 1, 2, and 4, Hen. IV.

parties contending were unequal in condition to dispute the title in law, considering the poor estate of Sir Hugh Luttrell, son of the Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, who had made the purchase, and the great power and riches of the duke of York. On this last petition, certain lords, bishops, and judges, were sworn in parliament, to consider the whole matter, and were ordered to make an award by a certain day. But it is probable that in the mean time some agreement was made with the heirs of Lord Mohun, for it does not appear that any award was ever entered; and it is certain that Sir Hugh Luttrell from this time continued in quiet possession of the said castle and manors.⁸⁶

MOHUN, OF HAM-MOHUN, DORSET.

Arms—*Ermine*, in a maunch, *Gules*, a hand, proper, holding a fleur de lys, *Or*.

William, Lord Mohun of Dunster, the fourth of

⁸⁶ There is a family in Devonshire at present, in the class of yeomanry, who are called *Moon*, which is the exact French pronunciation of Mohun, and may be considered as being descended from this once powerful baronial family.

There is also a family of some consideration in New Hampshire, one of the United States of North America, of the name of LANGDON, which is lineally descended from a female heiress of Mohun. This New England stock is in a lineal descent from the Langdons of Keverell, in Cornwall; an ancient family extinct in this country in 1676.—See LYSONS's Cornwall, cxxxix. The branch of it subsisting on the other side of the Atlantic emigrated about forty years previously. An individual of this family, who died in 1819, was one of the most distinguished characters in the revolution, which led to a separation of those provinces from the mother country. He was many years a senator in congress, and governor of his native state. As to their alliances with the Mohuns, see Visitation of Cornwall, 1573, under LANGDON.

that name, married Alice, daughter of William Briwere, jun. and had issue,

1. Reginald, Lord Mohun, died fifteenth of John.

2. John de Mohun, of Ham, (1.) who with Lucy his wife, in the second and thirteenth of King John held Ham-Mohun, amongst others, of the honour of Dunster. In a charter of the seventeenth of King John, granted to William Briwere, of the manor of Chesterfield, in the county of Derby, John de Mohun is a witness. In a charter without date, of Thomas Malmain's to William de Longespee, earl of Sarum, Ralph de Mohun, his *nepos*, and John de Mohun, are mentioned. The said John and Lucy had issue,

William de Mohun, of Ham, knight, who occurs as witness to a charter of Reginald de Mohun to William de Mohun his brother, of the manor of Axminster, from the twenty-ninth to the thirty-first of Henry II. He was succeeded by

Sir Helias de Mohun, knight, who was living about the end of the reign of Henry III. as a charter of his bears date at that period. He was succeeded by

John de Mohun, of Ham, (2.) as he was by another

John de Mohun, (3.) who died in the fifth of Edward III. This John, and Joan his wife, are mentioned in a charter of the third of Edward II. At his death he was seized of the manor of Ham-Mohun, which he held of the heir of John de Mohun, then a minor, and in ward to the king, by knight's service, John being his son and heir then aged twenty-three.

John, his successor, (4.) endowed Joan, his mother, with lands in Ham, in the fifth of Edward III. His wife, Matthia, is mentioned in a charter of the eighteenth of Edward III. They had issue

John de Mohun, (5.) who died in the thirty-sixth of Edward III. His wife's name was Hawise (re-married after his death to Walter Perle.) He was succeeded by

John de Mohun, of Ham-Mohun. (6.) This John had a sister, Margaret; and John, Lord Mohun of Dunster, sold the wardship of this John, of Ham, to Hawise, his mother; and if he died under age, the wardship of Margaret, his sister, by charter of thirty-fifth of Edward III. Hawise, who was wife of John de Mohun as above, *dotata est*, forty-seventh Edward III. John Mohun is mentioned in a charter dated at Ham-Mohun, fortieth of Edward III. This John de Mohun of Ham, (6.) married Joan, relict of Richard Turberville of Bere-Regis, and daughter of Thomas Norris, of Normington, in the county of Wilts. (She married 3. Richard Frome; and 4. Robert Craford.) By John de Mohun she had issue,

John de Mohun, of Ham, whose name occurs in a charter of the fourth of Richard II.—John Mohun, &c. grants lands in Pegges, by charter in the fourteenth of Richard II. And in the twelfth of Henry IV. the custody of the land of Ham-Mohun, and the wardship of John, son and heir of John Mohun, is granted to John Jordan. This John de Mohun, of Ham, married Joan, daughter and heiress of the said John Jordan, by

whom he had one only daughter and heiress, Christian, the wife of Henry Trenchard.

MOHUNS OF FLEET.

The Mohuns of Fleet, in the county of Dorset, were descended from Robert, fifth brother of John Mohun, of Dunster. The fourth brother, Reginald, was ancestor to the Mohuns of Boconnock, in Cornwall. From John de Mohun, father of the last-mentioned gentleman, who died in 1330, were six descents to Robert Mohun of Bothenhampton, who first settled in Dorsetshire. He was son of Richard, son of John Mohun, of Ottery, in Devon.

Robert Mohun, of Baunton, in the county of Dorset, married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Stephen Hyde, of the county of Dorset, esq. She died in 1603, aged ninety. They had issue Maximilian Mohun, of Fleet, eldest son; 2. John Mohun, of Mangeston, gent.; and 3. Robert Mohun, of Baunton, esq. who, by Meliora, daughter of — Pitt, of Blandford, had issue three daughters, 1. Meliora, wife of — Jackson; 2. Margaret, married to — Hele, of the county of Devon; 3. Anne, wife of — Hele, of the county of Devon.

Maximilian, the eldest son, died on the 14th of Oct. 1612, aged forty-eight, having in 1593 married Anne, daughter and co-heiress of John Churchill, of Corton, gent. by whom he had 1. Maximilian, who succeeded him; 2. Churchill; 3. Robert; 4. John, born 1605;

5. George, born 1607 ; and seven daughters, Mary, born 1595, wife of Cornelius Weston ; Elizabeth, wife of John Gollop, gent. ; Anne, Margaret, Eleanor, Thomasin, and Catharine.

Maximilian the second resided at Fleet, and died in the year 1673. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Chaldecot, of Whiteway, esq. and had issue 1. Maximilian, who died young in 1619 ; 2. Francis, who succeeded his father ; 3. Robert, a captain in the royal navy, died 1667 ; 4. William Mohun, esq. who resided at Portishead, in the county of Somerset ; and two daughters, Edith, died 1672, and Elizabeth, wife of Robert Yardley, gent.

Francis Mohun, esq. of Fleet, died in the year 1710, aged eighty-five years. He married Eleanor, daughter of — Sheldon, and niece of Archbishop Sheldon, (she died 1722) by whom he had Gilbert Maximilian Mohun, son and heir ; 2. Catherine, wife of Sir Edward Fust, of Hill Court, in the county of Gloucester ; and 3. Elizabeth, wife of Robert Broadrep, of Mapperton, esq.

Gilbert Maximilian Mohun, only son, was born in the year 1675, and died in 1721. He was twice married, 1. to Elizabeth, daughter of — Squibb, (she died 1701) by whom he had Gilbert Maximilian, who died young, and Elizabeth married in 1720 to Thomas Lyte, of Lyte's Cary, in the county of Somerset, gent. He married 2. Sarah, daughter of Thomas Cooper, esq. of Sherborne, (she died 1735) by whom he had 1. Gilbert Maximilian Mohun, born in 1709. He married

Dorothy, daughter of Roger Thompson, and relict of Sir Edward Fust, bart. (she died 1754) and died in 1739. 2. Thomas Mohun, who died in 1727; 3. Francis, born in 1713, lost in the Victory, Oct. 4, 1744; 4. Robert Mohun, who resided at Fleet, born 1715, and died without issue in 1758; and two daughters, Sarah, married 1. Thomas Farewel, gent.; and 2. John Gould, of Upway, esq.; and Judith, wife of 1. Edward Tizard, gent.; and 2. of — Worrall, esq.

LORD MOHUN, OF OAKHAMPTON.

John Mohun, of Boconnock, in the county of Cornwall, descended from the Mohuns of Dunster, was in 1628 created a peer by the title of Baron Mohun, of Oakhampton. He was succeeded by his eldest son, John, the second lord, and he by his brother Warwick, the third baron, who died in 1665, and was succeeded by his son, Charles, the fourth Lord Mohun, who was killed in a duel, in 1712, with the duke of Hamilton, (when the title became extinct,) to whom it also proved fatal. The heiress of Lord Mohun married Arthur, Viscount Doneraile.

This branch of the Mohuns bore for their arms, *Or*, a cross engrailed, *Sable*.

Crest, a dexter arm embowed, maunched, *Ermine*, in the hand, proper, a fleur de lys, *Or*.

Supporters, two lions rampant, guardant, *Argent*, crowned with earls' coronets, *Or*, the balls *Argent*.

GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF LUTTRELL,
BARONS OF IRNHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN.

Quæsitæ Marte tuenda Arte.

Arms, *Or*, a bend, *Sable*, between six martlets.

Supporters, two swans, proper, gorged with ducal coronets, *Or*.

Crest, five feathers in plume, proper.

The baronial family of LUTTRELL⁸⁷ has been seated in the county of Somerset ever since the thirteenth century. Their ancestors were among the Norman chiefs in the army of William the Conqueror at the battle of Hastings, in the year 1066.⁸⁸

In the reign of King Richard I. Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, knight, resided at Gamston, or Gamelston, in the county of Nottingham; in which county, besides other lands, he held the manor of Bridgeford and Normanton, and also estates in the counties of Derby, Leicester, and York; but having been prevailed upon, as several of the great men of that time were, by John, earl of Morton, the king's brother, to enter into rebellion against the sovereign, then in the wars of Palestine against the Saracens, and to join him in his attempt to

⁸⁷ This account of the barons Irnham is taken from Lodge's *Peerage of Ireland*, (title, earl of Carhampton, vol. iii. p. 399.) and is therein said to have been communicated by the first earl of Carhampton.

⁸⁸ *Histoire de Guillaume le Conquerant*, par L'Abbe P. 1742, vol. ii.—Abbey Lists in the British Museum, &c.—Lodge's *Peerage*, vol. iii. p. 399.

obtain the crown, all the lands of the said Geoffrey, in the sixth year of Richard I. were seized into the king's hands, and William Briwere, sheriff of the county of Nottingham, rendered an account of thirty-four shillings, the produce of those lands.⁸⁹

On the earl of Morton's succeeding to the crown, on the death of King Richard, Sir Geoffrey Luttrell paid fifteen marks into the exchequer, to have seizin of his lands in the soke of Clifton, in the county of Nottingham, (Bridgeford and Gamston) of which he had been dispossessed by reason of joining in that rebellion, whereupon he was restored to his inheritance, and had a ratification of his title to those manors.⁹⁰

The king also ratified to him the grant of fifteen oxgangs of land in Gamston and Normanton, made by Gerbord de Eschaud; and also the lordship of Bridesarke, and sixteen oxgangs of land in Bridgeford and Keyworth, granted to him by Gerard de Rodes.⁹¹

In the second of John the said Geoffrey, with William Fitz-Walkelin, was an overseer of the expenses incurred by Hugh Bardolph, amounting to £30, by the inclosure of Bolsover Park, for King John.⁹²

⁸⁹ Pipe Rolls, 6. R. 1. m. 11.—Dugd. Baronage, vol. i. p. 724.—Thoroton's Hist. of Nottinghamsh. by Throsby, vol. i. p. 118.—Collinson's Hist. of Somerset, vol. iii. p. 498.

⁹⁰ Pipe Rolls, 1 John.—Thoroton's Nottinghamsh. *ibid*.

⁹¹ Dugd. Baronage, vol. i. p. 724.—Collinson's History of Somerset, vol. iii. p. 498.

⁹² Pipe Rolls, 2 John.—Ch. 30. Hen. III. m. 6.—Orig. 36 Hen. III.—Thoroton's Nottinghamsh. vol. i. p. 118.

In the fifth of John, he had a grant of ten pounds per annum for life payable out of the treasury, for his support in the king's service. Two years afterward he accounted for the scutage of Wales for seven knight's fees and a half, being the moiety of the barony of William Paganel, whose daughter and co-heiress he had married. In the twelfth of John, he attended that king into Ireland, and in the following year, on collecting the scutage of Scotland, was acquitted for the fees which he held of the barony of Paganel.⁹³

In the sixteenth year of the same reign he was sent into Ireland, and a direction given to the bishops and great men of that country to treat him as a person much trusted by the king. On the payment of twenty ounces of gold he obtained a grant from the crown of the lands of Luttrellstown, in Ireland,⁹⁴ to hold by military service, and he had livery of the same from the hands of John le Mareschal, lord marshal of the kingdom.⁹⁵ In the following year he was, together with the archbishops of Dublin and Bourdeaux, and with Robert Marshall, (being then called *nobilis vir*) appointed to go to Rome,⁹⁶ for the purpose of representing to the pope the state of the kingdom, and the disputes between the king and the barons; at which

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⁹³ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. p. 724.—Collinson's Somerset, vol. iii. p. 498.

⁹⁴ The castle, manor, and lands of Luttrellstown continued in the Irish branch of the family to the death of the last earl of Carhampton, in 1821.

⁹⁵ Pat. 17 Joh. p. unica dorso, in the Tower.—Lodge's Peerage, vol. iii. p. 400.

⁹⁶ Rymer's Fœdera, vol. i. 17 Joh.

time he had also a particular commission for adjusting the differences between King John and Berengaria, queen dowager of Richard I. at that time referred to the pope's arbitration, and was empowered in the king's name to swear to the performance of such articles as should be then agreed upon. This Geoffrey was also a witness during the reign of John to several of the royal grants recited in the *Monasticon Anglicanum*.—He died in the second year of King Henry III. leaving by Trethesenta his wife, second daughter of William Paganel (who survived him, and afterward married Henry de Newmarch) Sir Andrew Luttrell, his son and heir.

SIR ANDREW LUTTRELL, KNT., FIRST BARON IRNHAM.

In the fifteenth of King Henry III. 1229, this Sir Andrew Luttrell came before the king at Westminster, and claimed certain estates as his inheritance which had descended to him as the heir of Maurice de Gaunt, who had died in that year without issue;⁹⁷ and he

⁹⁷ In the "*Testa de Nevill*" there are the following particulars relating to the barony of Maurice de Gaunt and Sir Andrew Luttrell:—

"Maurice de Gaunt holds Quantockshead and Hulsh, by the service of half a knight's fee.

"He also holds Stockland of the king, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.

"He also holds Paulet of the king, by the service of half a knight's fee, which was anciently a member of the manor of South Petherton.—*Testa de N. fo. 162. Somerset.*

"Maurice de Gaunt holds Irnham in demesne, as of his barony.—*Ibid. fo. 342. Lincoln.*

shortly after made good his title to the manor of Irnham, in the county of Lincoln, which was held of the king *in capite* by barony, and which had descended to the said Maurice de Gaunt from the Paganel. The said Sir Andrew also claimed the manors of Stockland-Gaunt, (now called Stockland-Bristol) East-Quantockshead, Huish, Paulet, and Weare, all in the county of Somerset, whereof the said Maurice had died seized, and upon payment of one hundred marks he had livery of the same. He gave the manor of Stockland, with the advowson of the church, to the master and brethren of the hospital of St. Mark, of Billeswyke, in Bristol, which the said Maurice de Gaunt had founded. In the twenty-sixth of King Henry III. he had orders to fit himself with horses and arms to attend the king into France. In the thirtieth of the same reign, he gave the king three marks of gold to be excused serving as bailiff, sheriff's justice, or in any other office of provincial magistracy whatever,⁹⁸ notwithstanding which we find him to have been sheriff of the county of Lincoln in the thirty-fifth year of that reign;⁹⁹ and about that time he attended the king on the expedition of

" The fees of Andrew Luterel.

" Andrew Luterel holds Irnham of the king by barony.

" William de Langton holds one knight's fee in Boleby and Saunthorp.

" William de Colevill holds one knight's fee in Swynestede.

" Henry de Plays and his participants hold one knight's fee in Tevelby.

" The heirs of Ralph Paganel hold one knight's fee in Berghton with the soke, of the old feoffment."—Testa de N. fo. 307. Lincoln.

⁹⁸ Thoroton's Nottinghamsh. vol. i. p. 118.

⁹⁹ Madox's History of the Exchequer.

Elveyn. On collecting the aid for making Prince Edward a knight, he answered for twenty-five pounds for twelve knight's fees and a half, of the barony of Maurice de Gaunt, and thirty pounds for fifteen others, his own original fee.¹

This Sir Andrew Luttrell, baron of Irnham, died in the forty-ninth of King Henry III. 1264, having married Petronilla, daughter of Philip de la Mare, a rich and powerful baron, sheriff of the county of Nottingham,² and constable of Nottingham Castle in the time of King John, who surviving him, held, in the third of Edward I. the manor of East-Quantockshead in dower. Their children were Geoffrey Luttrell, who on his father's death became second baron of Irnham, of this family, and who at that time was thirty years of age; and Alexander Luttrell, founder of the Luttrells of East-Quantockshead, to whom his father, by a deed sealed with his seal, barry of four pieces, gave that manor, under a rent of a pair of spurs and sixpence, reserving to himself the lands of Huish and Stockland, and the services of Maurice de Lega and Robert de Cumbe. This grant was soon afterward confirmed by Geoffrey his eldest son, under his seal of arms, namely, four martlets, and also by Roger de Somery, heir of Gervase Paganel, of Dudley.

The manor of Irnham was held by the service of an entire barony. The Lords Irnham were very opulent,

¹ Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i. p. 724.

² Dugdale's Baronage, vol. i.—Lodge's Peerage, vol. iii. p. 401.

yet it does not appear that any of them after Robert, the third baron, had summons to parliament. We may, however, here remark, that the chief privileges in the times of which we are speaking, were those of baronage, and not of parliament, and the barons who resided at a distance from the metropolis, and who had no immediate office about court, were seldom ambitious of writs of summons. Dugdale tells us, that in the second year of Henry IV. the baron de la Warre obtained an indulgence from the king, that he might be excused any writ for service in parliament during a certain term of years.³

The Luttrells were descended from the Paganel, and connected with the Gaunts, earls of Lincoln and barons of Falkingham, by the marriage of Sir Geoffrey Luttrell with Trethesenta, younger daughter of William Paganel, by his second wife Avicia de Romeli, daughter of Robert de Romeli, lord of Skipton, and granddaughter of William de Meschines, lord of Copeland, brother of Randolph de Meschines, earl of Chester. By this marriage the Luttrells became connected with the ancient earls of Chester, and through them with the blood-royal of France.

The Paganel were a great family in Normandy, one of whom, Ralph Paganel, came into England with William the Conqueror, and for his services was rewarded by that king with ten lordships in Devonshire,

³ Lodge's *Peerage of Ireland*, vol. iii. p. 403.

five in Somersetshire, fifteen in Lincolnshire, and fifteen in Yorkshire. He was succeeded by his son Fulke, and he by his son and heir, Ralph, whose second son, William Paganel, inherited his father's lands in Somersetshire, as also the manor of Irnham, and other great possessions in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham, Derby, York, and Warwick.⁴ He married to his first wife, Julian, daughter and heiress of Robert de Bahantune, or Bampton, in the county of Devon, (only son of Walter de Doway, who came into England with the Conqueror) with whom he had the honour of Bampton, and other great estates. He married secondly Avicia de Romeli, before mentioned, by whom he had two daughters, Alicia and Trethesenta; the first married to

⁴ Certificate of the barony of William Paganel, returned into the exchequer, twelfth Henry II. (1166.)—See *Liber Niger Scaccarii*, vol. i. p. 321; and *DUGDALE's Baronage*, vol. i. p. 432.

"To Henry, king of England, his most dear lord, William Paganel sendeth greeting and his faithful service.

"These are the knights who are enfeoffed of my fee, according to the old feoffment:—

"Robert de Melill three knight's fees and a half.

"Masci de Curci one knight's fee and a half.

"Fulke Paganel one knight's fee.

"Robert de Bridesdale [Birdsall] one knight's fee.

"Richard de Lovetot five knight's fees.

"Jordan de Painel one knight's fee.

"Ralph de Tirnisco [Thurnsco] and Hugh de Barevill, one knight's fee.

"Of my own domain half a knight's fee.

"And of my domain of Cugrig [Cookridge] and the soke, half a knight's fee.

"Know, my lord, that I have no knight's fee of the new feoffment, except Jordan Paganel, who holds half a knight's fee; and William de Wident, Roger Fitz-Peter, and Robert de Alterina, who hold half a knight's fee."

Robert de Gaunt, baron of Falkingham, in the county of Lincoln, and the second to Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, knight, of Gamston, in the county of Nottingham, between whom, on the death of the said William Paganel, all his estates were divided. On the partition, Robert de Gaunt had Irnham, in Lincolnshire, and all the lands of the Paganel in the county of Somerset; which eventually descended to Alice his daughter, the wife of Robert de Weare, a younger son of Robert Fitz-Harding, progenitor of the family of Berkeley. This Robert resided at Beverston Castle, in Gloucestershire.⁵

The first of the Gaunts who came into England was Gilbert de Gaunt (Ghent, from being born in that city) son of Baldwin the fifth, earl of Flanders, and brother of Matilda, queen of the Conqueror. He was baron of Falkingham, in the county of Lincoln, and died in the reign of William Rufus, leaving issue Walter de Gaunt, second baron of Falkingham, who died in the fourth year of King Stephen; and Robert de Gaunt, of whom hereafter. Walter had three sons, Gilbert, who succeeded him, Robert de Gaunt, and Geoffrey.

Gilbert, the third baron of Falkingham, married Alice, daughter and heiress of William de Romara, earl of Lincoln, (niece of Randolph, earl of Chester) by which marriage the earldom of Lincoln afterward came into this family, and had issue two daughters; first, Alice, married to Simon de St. Liz, earl of Huntingdon

⁵ Collinson's Somerset, vol. i. p. 247.

and Northampton, and in her right earl of Lincoln ; and secondly Gunnora. Both these daughters died without issue.

On the death of Alice, wife of the earl of Huntingdon and Northampton, without children, the earldom of Lincoln and barony of Falkingham devolved upon her uncle, Robert de Gaunt, second son of Walter de Gaunt, second baron of Falkingham. He died in the ninth year of King Henry II. leaving issue Gilbert de Gaunt, called the Good, third earl of Lincoln. He was succeeded, in the twenty-sixth of Henry III. by his son Gilbert, who died in the second of Edward I. (1274) leaving issue, Gilbert de Gaunt, called the fifth, who married Lora, sister of Alexander Baliol. He died without issue in the twenty-sixth of Edward I. leaving two sisters, namely, Margaret, married to William de Kerdeston, and Nichola, married to Peter de Mauley.

I now return to Robert de Gaunt, second son of Gilbert de Gaunt, first baron of Falkingham. He married Alicia, daughter and co-heiress of William Paganell, by whom he had Alicia, daughter and heiress, who married Robert de Berkeley, second son of Robert Fitz-Harding.

The issue of Robert de Berkeley, (called also Robert de Weare, from his residence at Weare, near Axbridge) and Alicia de Gaunt, were Maurice de Gaunt, so called after his mother, and Eva de Berkeley, which latter married Thomas de Harptree, and had issue Robert de

Harpree-Gournay, of whom the present earl of Egmont is the lineal and direct representative.

Maurice de Gaunt was twice married, but left no issue by either marriage. He died in the fourteenth year of King Henry III. (1229) and the estates of his mother devolved upon Sir Andrew Luttrell, and Irnham, in Lincolnshire, being the chief of them, became the head of his barony and his principal seat.⁶

GEOFFREY LUTTRELL, SECOND BARON OF IRNHAM.

Geoffrey Luttrell, second baron of Irnham, became in the decline of life *non compos mentis*, and was in custody of his brother Alexander, who in the fifty-fourth year of King Henry III. was signed with the cross, for the crusade, together with Prince Edward, the king's eldest son, and many of the nobility.⁷

SIR ROBERT LUTTRELL, KNIGHT, THIRD BARON OF IRNHAM.

Sir Robert Luttrell, knight, the third baron of Irnham, lord of Hutton-Paganel in Yorkshire, Luttrellstown in Ireland, &c. was the son of Geoffrey, by a

⁶ Monast. A. vol. iii. p. 74.

⁷ In 1236, there was a Robert Luttrell, who was treasurer of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and Lord Chancellor of Ireland. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the family of Luttrell were great benefactors to the monks and college of Sempringham, in the county of Lincoln.—See PACE's Hist. of Stamford, and DUGDALE's Mon. Angl.

daughter of William de Grey.⁸ In the fifth year of King Edward I. (1277) Robert Luttrell, "Serviens," acknowledged the service of two knight's fees in Hutton and Irnham, performed by himself and "three servientes," in the expedition against Llewellyn, prince of Wales; and was to attend the muster before the constable and earl-marshal at Worcester, on the first of July. And in the tenth of the same reign, (1282) he was again summoned to perform military service against the Welch, and to attend the muster at Worcester on the 17th of May. In the fifteenth of the same reign, (1287) he was summoned to appear, with horses and arms, at a military council at Gloucester, before Edmund, earl of Cornwall, on the fifteenth of July. In the nineteenth of Edward I. he was summoned to go in person against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Norham on the 3rd of June; and in the twenty-second of the same reign he was ordered to attend the king upon urgent affairs immediately after the receipt of the writ, dated June 8. In the twenty-second of Edward I. (1294) he was excepted from the general summons of persons holding by military service, then ordered to be made for the king's expedition into Gascony. In the twenty-third of the same reign, (1295) he was summoned to parliament amongst the barons, and again in the following year.⁹ In the thirty-second

⁸ Esc. 25 Edw. I. No. 35.—Inq. post mort. Dom. Rob. Luttrell.—Dugdale's Bar. vol. i.

⁹ Palgrave's Writs of Mil. Summons, vol. i. p. 719.

year of the same king he had summons, among other great men, to attend the king, and advise in council touching important affairs of state, and on a resolution then taken for that monarch's expedition into France, had orders to be with horses and arms at Portsmouth, in September following. He had summons to parliament among the barons,¹⁰ in the year 1295, and died in 1297, twenty-fifth of Edward I. leaving Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, knight, his son and heir, then above twenty-one years of age; 2. Guy; and 3. Robert Luttrell, rector of Irnham, which Robert, about the year 1303,¹¹ gave to the priory of Sempringham, lands in Ketton and Cotesmore, in the county of Nottingham; Casterton, in the county of Rutland; and Stamford, in the county of Lincoln; to maintain three chaplains, one in the church of St. Andrew, of Irnham, another in the chapel of St. Mary, beneath the manor he gave in Stamford, and the third in the conventual church of Sempringham, celebrating for his soul, and to sustain scholars, studying divinity and philosophy at Stamford.¹²

The said Sir Robert Luttrell, the father, died seized of certain lands and tenements in Gamston and Bridgford, with the advowson of the church at the latter place, which he held of Robert de Tiptoft, by the service of half a knight's fee, and a capital messuage in Gamston, and twelve oxgangs of land which he held in demesne at Bridgford. He also held in Gamston five

¹⁰ Dugdale's Summons to Parl.

¹¹ Mon. Angl. vol. ii. p. 792.

¹² Thoroton's Nottinghamsh. by Throsby, vol. i. p. 119.

virgates of land of Annora de Pierpont, and five bovates in Huckenhall, belonging to the manor of Gamston.¹³

SIR GEOFFREY LUTTRELL, KNIGHT, FOURTH BARON
OF IRNHAM.

This Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, knight, fourth baron of Irnham, in the twenty-fifth of Edward I. (1297) was returned from the counties of Nottingham and Derby as holding lands or rents to the amount of £20 yearly value and upwards, either *in capite* or otherwise, and as such was summoned to perform military service in person, with horses and arms, in Scotland, and to attend the muster at Nottingham, on the 7th of July. And in the 28th of the same reign, (1300) he was returned from the Wapentakes of Strafforth and Tickhill, in the county of York, as holding lands or rents, either in capite or otherwise, to the amount of £40 yearly value and upwards, and as such was summoned to perform military service against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Carlisle on the 24th of June. And he was also returned in like manner from the county of Lincoln, and again in the following year.¹⁴

In the second and fifth years of King Edward II. he had summons to attend the royal army against the Scots, soon after which he was amerced among many

¹³ Esch. 25 Edw. I. n. 35.—Thoroton's Nottinghamsh. vol. i. p. 119.

¹⁴ Palgrave's Writs of Mil. Summons, vol. i. p. 719.

other powerful subjects.¹⁵ He was patron of the church of St. Andrew, at Irnham, and also of Christ Church, in the city of York.¹⁶ In the thirteenth of Edward II. by his deed dated at Irnham on the first Sunday after Trinity, he settled the manors of Gamston and Bridgford, with the advowson of the church of the latter place, with all his lands and tenements in Basingfield, and other places, which his mother, the Lady Joan, wife of Sir Robert Luttrell, held for her life, on Guy Luttrell during the life of the said Geoffrey, afterwards to Andrew, son of the said Geoffrey, and to Beatrice, his wife, daughter of Geoffrey Scrope, and the heirs of their bodies; for want of which to Geoffrey, brother of Andrew, and to Constance his wife, sister of the said Beatrice, and the heirs of their bodies, remainder to the right heirs of Geoffrey the father. There was a like settlement then made of Irnham and Saltby, and lands in Corby, Kesseby, and Haverthorp, in the county of Lincoln.¹⁷

The said Sir Geoffrey Luttrell married Agnes, daughter of Sir Richard Sutton, knight, and left issue three sons, Andrew, Geoffrey, and John.¹⁸ Sir Geoffrey, the

¹⁵ One of these, the Lord Furnival, pleaded against the amerclament, he not being an immediate feodatory of the crown. He set forth that he held the manor of Whystaw of the barony of Geoffrey Luttrell.—See *Madox's Hist. of the Exchequer*.

¹⁶ Drake's Eboracum.

¹⁷ Ex. Lib. Chart. transcript. de Terris Scropor. in Biblioth. Cotton. fol. iii. —Thoroton, vol. i. p. 119.

¹⁸ Inq. p. mort. Galf. Luttrell, knt. 19 Edw. III. No. 48.

second son, married Constance, daughter of Lord Scrope, but left no issue. He was one of the chief knights in the army of King Edward III. in Scotland in 1335.¹⁹

Sir Andrew Luttrell, knight, fifth baron of Irnham, lord of Hutton-Paganel, &c. married Beatrice, daughter of Sir Geoffrey Scrope, Lord Scrope, of Masham. He gave his manors of Saltby and Berhonby, in Leicestershire, to the abbey of Croxton.²⁰

Sir Andrew Luttrell, knight, sixth baron of Irnham, lord of Hutton-Paganel, East-Quantockshhead, &c. son of the last Sir Andrew, married Hawisia,²¹ daughter of John le Despenser.²² It appears that this Sir Andrew settled the manors of Gamston and Bridgford, and the advowson of the church of the latter place, and all his lands in Bridgford, Gamston, Basingfield, Normanton, Torlaston, Keyworth, and Nottingham, on himself and Hawisia, his wife, and the heirs of their two bodies, remainder to his right heirs.²³ He died in the twenty-first of Richard I. (1397) leaving Sir Andrew, his son and heir.

Sir Andrew Luttrell, seventh baron of Irnham, who

¹⁹ In the reign of King Edw. II. flourished John Luttrell, Chancellor of the University of Oxford, from the year 1317 to 1324.—*Antiq. Oxford*.

²⁰ Lodge's *Peerage of Ireland*, vol. iii. p. 402.—*Segar's Bar*.

²¹ *Inq. p. mort. Andr. Luttrell*, chevalier.

²² Lodge, vol. iii. p. 403.

²³ Brother of Edmund, Lord le Despenser, and uncle to the earl of Gloucester.—*Thoroton*, vol. i. 119.—*Esch.* 14 Rich. II. n. 32.

dying²⁴ in the first year of Henry IV. left his estates to his son, Geoffrey Luttrell.²⁵

Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, eighth baron of Irnham, settled the manor of Bridgford, and the advowson of the church, on William Belers and others, and having no issue by his wife Maria, on his death, in the sixth of Henry V. (1417) the manors of Gamston and Bridgford, Hutton-Paganel, &c. and the barony of Irnham, descended to the Lady Hawisia de Belesby, relict of Thomas de Belesby, but then the wife of Geoffrey de Hilton, his sister and heiress.²⁶

This Lady Hawisia, by her first husband, Thomas de Belesby, had issue one son, Thomas, who died a minor in the first of Henry VI. and a daughter Elizabeth, heiress of her brother, married to John Pygot.²⁷ Her second husband was Geoffrey de Hilton, who was living in the sixth of Henry V. by whom she had one son, Geoffrey, living in the first of Edward IV. and a daughter Elizabeth. The last-mentioned Geoffrey Hilton, was fifteen years of age in the twelfth of Edward IV. and died without issue, leaving Elizabeth, his sister, then married to Richard Thymelby, esq. his heir; which Richard died seized of the moiety of the manors of Gamston and Bridgford, and the advowson

²⁴ His tomb, of wrought brass, is still to be seen in the church of St. Andrew, at Irnham.

²⁵ Lodge, vol. iii. p. 403.—Inq. post. mort. And Luttrell, 1 Hen. IV. No. 27.

²⁶ Thoroton, i. 119.

²⁷ Thoroton, i. 118.—Fin. Rot. 8 Hen. VI. m. 16.

of the church of the latter place, leaving issue Eleanor, married to Thomas Goodhall, and Sir John Thymelby, knight, his son and heir, then upwards of forty years of age. This Sir John married Margaret, daughter of John Boys, and died in the third of Edward VI. leaving Sir Richard Thymelby, knight, his son and heir, who married Katherine, daughter of Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, knight, and had John Thymelby, esq. married to Maria, daughter of George St. Paul, esq. This John Thymelby sold all his interest in the manors of Gamston and Bridgford to Sir Henry Pierpont, knt.²⁸

From the Thymelbys the manor and barony of Irnham was conveyed by a female to the family of Conquest, an heiress of which brought the manor, a few years since, to Lord Arundel of Wardour.²⁹

The Luttrells of Irnham, in right of marriage, quartered the arms of the following ancient barons of England, namely, Mowbray, earls of Nottingham and dukes of Norfolk; the Lords Hussie, Wake, D'Eincourt, and Tateshall.³⁰

LUTTRELLS OF EAST-QUANTOCKSHEAD.

It has already been mentioned that Sir Andrew Luttrell, first baron of Irnham, by a deed sealed with his seal, barry of four pieces, gave to his second son, Alexander Luttrell, the manor of East-Quantocks-

²⁸ Thoroton's Hist. of Nottinghamsh. by Throesby, vol. i. p. 118, 119, 120.

²⁹ Lodge, ii. p. 403.

³⁰ Lodge, iii. p. 403.

head, in the county of Somerset, rendering for the same, annually, a pair of spurs and sixpence; together with the manors of Tolland, Bagborough, Begarn-Huish, and Stockland, in the said county; which three last-mentioned manors were then in the possession of Agnes de Gaunt. Soon after the same Alexander released to Agnes de Gaunt all suits of court but those that were usually due to the manor of Quantockshead.

Who this Agnes was, or what relation she bore to Maurice de Gaunt, does not appear, nor how long she or her heirs kept possession of these manors. In the fourth year of Edward II. we find that Andrew Luttrell, of East-Quantockshead, granted the manor of Begarn-Huish to Lucy, widow of Thomas de Ralegh, and her heirs, whose descendants in the male line lived at Ralegh, in Devonshire.

In the fifth of King Henry III. this Sir Alexander Luttrell attended Prince Edward to the Holy Land, from which he does not appear ever to have returned. He left issue,

Andrew Luttrell, his only son and successor, who died about the third year of King Edward I. (1274) leaving two sons, Andrew, who succeeded him at East-Quantockshead, and John Luttrell, of Chilton, in the county of Devon, ancestor of the Luttrells of Dunster Castle.

Andrew, his eldest son, being then a knight, in the twenty-ninth of Edward I. (1302), was summoned

from the county of Devon, to perform military service in person against the Scots, and to attend the muster at Berwick, on the 24th of June.³¹ He was living in the eleventh of Edward II. and was father of

Alexander Luttrell, of East-Quantockshead, who, in the fourteenth of Edward III. was a knight, and in the year following was collector of the king's duties on wool, arising within the county of Somerset. The same year he agreed with the master and brethren of Gaunt's Hospital, in Bristol, that they should have the manor of Stockland, free from all claims either from him or his heirs, on their paying him and Lucia his wife, an annuity of ten pounds for their respective lives. This Lucia was his second wife. His first was Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Trivet, knight. She was living in the thirteenth of King Edward III. and was the mother of Thomas Luttrell.

Which Thomas Luttrell, in his father's life-time, married Joan, daughter of Sir John Paulton, on which marriage John de Montfort gave to them and the heirs of their bodies, the manor of Milton-Falconbridge, near Brewton. He died before the thirtyninth of Edward III. Dionysia, his second wife, surviving him, having part of his lands in dower. She afterwards married Thomas Popham, and was mother of Richard Popham, of Alfoxton.

John, the only son and successor of Thomas Luttrell,

³¹ Palgrave's *Writs of Mill. Summons*, vol. i. p. 719.

was under age at the time of his father's death, and in wardship to Sir Andrew Luttrell, baron of Irnham, who, in the fortieth of Edward III. (1365) assigned his right in the said wardship to Sir Baldwin Malet, of Enmore. This John, in the twentieth of King Richard II. married Joan, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Kingston; and at the same time levied a fine on all his lands, and settled them on himself, and the heirs of his body begotten on the said Joan. In the first of Henry IV. he was one of the knights of the Bath made at the coronation of that king, and was at the same time retained to serve him for life, having a grant of forty pounds per annum, payable out of the profits of the county of Somerset. In the fourth of Henry IV. he was sheriff of Somerset and Dorset; in which year, being ordered to the North, to assist in suppressing the insurrection of the Percys, he disposed of his estate at Quantockshead to trustees,³² so that the inheritance of the same, in case he died without lawful issue, should accrue to his kinsman, Sir Hugh Luttrell, of Dunster Castle. And by another deed, in which he recites, that whereas he had made over his manor of Quantockshead, and other his lands in Iwode, Williton, Vexford, Bibwell, &c. to Sir Maurice Russell; John, son of Sir John Paulet; William Paulet, and others, for the

³² Among the muniments at Dunster Castle, there is "Sir John Luttrell's will in parchment, on his going to assist King Henry IV. in his wars against Sir Henry Percehays."—*PARNES'S INDEX*.

performance of his will : he further says, that in case he dies out of England, or in the king's service, before his return, that his trustees should make an estate for life in certain lands in Williton, to Thomas Popham, with remainder to Richard Popham, his maternal brother and the heirs of his body; and on default of such to William Paulet and his heirs; and in default of such then they should sell the same, and lay out the money in such manner as they should think most meet for the souls of the testator and his ancestors, and also for the soul of John Fitz-Urse. He orders his manor of Iwode to be sold for the payment of his debts, and gives a legacy of twenty pounds to Lady Cecilia Berkeley, directing his trustees, in case she should not accept of it, to lay it out for the health of her soul.

This will bears date the 4th of June, in the fourth of Henry IV. (1402) and was proved the 4th of August following, so that it was not made long before his death, which probably happened in that year's expedition. By these means, however, the ancient inheritance of Quantockshead was preserved in the male line of this family, which otherwise would have fallen to Lady Elizabeth Harington, his cousin and next heir.

By the death of this John Luttrell, the second branch of this family became extinct.

LUTTRELLS OF CHILTON.

The second branch of the Luttrells (the eldest branch of the Somersetshire family) being extinct by the death of John Luttrell, of East-Quantockshead, in 1402, they were succeeded by the descendants of John,³³ younger son of Andrew Luttrell, of East-Quantockshead, living in the time of King Edward I. Which John, in the eleventh of Edward III. had a grant from that king of certain lands and rents in Chilton, in the county of Devon, and a pardon for having purchased other lands in that place without licence. In the thirty-seventh of King Edward III. he was knight of the shire for Devon. He was twice married; his first wife's name Rose, by whom he seems to have had no issue. His second wife was Joan, by whom he had Sir Andrew Luttrell, his successor at Quantockshead.

The said Sir Andrew, who is styled of Chilton, married, in his father's life-time, the Lady Elizabeth, second daughter of Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devonshire, and widow of Sir John Vere, knight, a younger son of Aubrey de Vere, earl of Oxford. By this

³³ Lodge (*Peerage of Ireland*, vol. iii. p. 403) says, but erroneously, that this John was the youngest son of Geoffrey, fourth baron of Irnham. He was a knight in the parliament held at Nottingham in 1336. He was possessed of the Isle of Lundy, in the Bristol Channel, that had belonged to the Luttrells for several generations, and which went from them to the Granvilles. He also served in the wars of France under Edward III. Lodge says that the lands which were granted to him in Devonshire had formerly belonged to Bartholomew Payne. His second wife, Joan, was the daughter of the Lord Mohun of Dunster Castle.—*Somersetshire Visit. in Br. Mus.—Inq. p. m. dom.* Joh. Luttrell in *Turr. Lond.*

marriage the Luttrells became connected with the royal family of England. In the thirty-third of Edward III. this lady being then called the Lady Elizabeth Vere, kinswoman to the king, had a grant of £200 per annum, issuing out of the profits of the counties of Huntingdon and Cambridge, which grant was renewed to her and her said husband the year following. Besides this pension from the crown, which in those days was very considerable, it appears that she had a large dower in several manors lying in the counties of Bucks, Oxford, and Bedford, being the possessions of Sir John Vere her first husband. This enabled her to execute those great things which she did for her family, the honour and prosperity of which she very much advanced. Her husband being dead, in the forty-eighth of Edward III. she purchased the manors of Stonehall and Woodhall, with lands in Debenham, in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk; and likewise soon after the barony, honour, and manor of Dunster, together with the manors of Minehead, Carhampton, Kilton, and the Hundred of Carhampton, reversionary after the life of Lady Mohun, widow of Sir John Mohun, knight, lord of those manors. She died in the sixth of Henry IV. and was succeeded in these possessions by Sir Hugh Luttrell, her son and heir by Sir Andrew Luttrell, her second husband, who had his residence at Dunster Castle, and was the progenitor of the several owners of that noble mansion.

LUTTRELLS OF DUNSTER CASTLE.

It has been already mentioned in the history of the family of Mohun, that the Lady Elizabeth Luttrell had purchased, in the fiftieth of Edward III. (1375) of the Lady Mohun, widow of John, the last Lord Mohun, the reversion of the barony and manor of Dunster and other estates.

Sir Hugh Luttrell was the first of this family who resided at Dunster Castle. In some public records he is styled kinsman to the king; and under that title, in the fifteenth of King Richard II. he had the grant of an annuity of £40, issuing out of lands belonging to the Alien Priory of Wenge, in the county of Bucks.

This Sir Hugh Luttrell, by his mother the Lady Elizabeth, was descended from the royal family of England,³⁴ she being the daughter of Hugh Courtenay,

³⁴ Sir Hugh Luttrell, by his mother, had also the blood of the royal and noble house of Courtenay flowing in his veins. The illustrious family of Courtenay is descended from ARNON, who was of the same lineage with the dukes of Boulogne, one of whose ancestors, Ricuinus, was count of Ardenne, and a duke on the Moselle, and the fourteenth in paternal descent from Pharamond, founder of the French monarchy, A. D. 429, and the common patriarch of the kings of France. Of the same family of Boulogne were the celebrated Godfrey and Baldwin, the first kings of Jerusalem; and from Athon de Courtenay descended Peter and Robert, Baldwin II. and Philip I. emperors of Constantinople in the thirteenth century; and they, as well as their forefathers, had the same armorial bearings as those borne by the present Courtenays, namely, *Or, three Torteaux, Gules*. It is to this royal and imperial descent that the family motto alludes—*Ubi lapus? Quid feci?*

The Courtenays came into England with Eleanor, queen of Henry II. in the year 1151. Reginald de Courtenay, whilst living in France, had married the sister of Guy de Donjon, by whom he had William de Courtenay, who arrived

second earl of Devonshire, by Margaret Bohun, daughter of Humphrey Bohun, earl of Hereford, and Elizabeth, sister of King Edward II. and daughter of King Edward I. by his queen, Eleanor of Castile.

In the second of Henry IV. Sir Hugh Luttrell was appointed steward of the queen's household, and soon after constable of the castle of Bristol, and warden of the forest of Kingswood. In the third year of the same reign, he was lieutenant of Calais, and three years afterward was a commissioner to array men within the county of Somerset, on an expectation that the French would assist the Welch rebels. In the third year of Henry V. he attended the king at the taking of Harfleur; upon the surrender of which he was appointed one of the council to the lieutenant, and soon after succeeded him. In the following year, in consideration of two hundred and eighty-six pounds, he agreed to serve the king in

in England with his father. By the king's influence Reginald married Matilda, daughter of Robert Fitzroy, a natural son of Henry I. but she died without issue. William, the son of Reginald, married Hawise, daughter of Robert D'Aincourt, by Matilda, daughter and sole heiress of Robert D'Avranches, baron of Oakhampton, and hereditary sheriff of the county of Devon. The barony of Oakhampton was held of the crown by the service of ninety-three knights; "and a female might claim," says Gibbon, "the manly offices of hereditary viscount or sheriff, and of captain of the royal castle of Exeter." Their son Robert married the heiress of the great family *De Riperis, de Redvers, or Rivers*, and his great-grandson succeeded to the earldom of Devonshire, possessed by that family, which earldom continued with the Courtenays till the death in 1566 of Edward Courtenay, twelfth earl of Devonshire, second marquis of Exeter, and fifteenth baron of Oakhampton, which last title the family had possessed ever since it came into England.—SIR W. POLE's Collections for Devon, p. 2, 3.—CLEAVELAND's Hist. of the House of Courtenay.—COLLINS's Peerage, vol. vi.—Tables Genealogiques, 4to. Strasbourg, 1780.

the French wars in person for one year, together with twenty men at arms, of whom one was to be a knight, and the rest esquires, and sixty archers, all of whom were to be ready at Southampton by the 4th of May; and the next year he was appointed to treat with and take the surrender of the town of Monstreville. He was several times chosen knight of the shire for the county of Devon; and on the coronation of the queen of Henry V. he was appointed steward of her household. In his old age he lived always at Dunster, where he rebuilt a considerable part of the castle, and kept great hospitality. That he had great interest at court appears from a letter written by Henry VI. to the king of Scotland, demanding satisfaction on the complaint of Sir Hugh Luttrell, for harbouring a Spanish ship that had taken one of his fishing boats, and abused his tenants at Minehead. Lodge³⁵ says that he was representative in parliament for the county of Somerset, in the reign of King Richard II. and successively for that county and Devon. In the early part of the reign of Henry IV. he had letters of safe conduct for his passage into Ireland. In 1403, being lieutenant of Calais, he was one of the arbitrators named by the king to decide all differences between the count of Denia and Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, respecting the ransom of the former. He was afterward appointed ranger of the forest of Blackmore, in the county of Dorset, and

³⁵ Peerage of Ireland, vol. iii. p. 404.

one of the privy council to King Henry V. At the reduction of Harfleur, in 1415, the king left a strong garrison in that place, appointing his uncle, the duke of Exeter, captain; Sir John Fastolfe, knight of the garter, lieutenant; assisted by two knights of the privy council, the baron of Carew, and this Sir Hugh Luttrell. He also served under King Henry V. at the memorable siege of Rouen.

He died in the eighth of Henry VI. (1431) leaving issue by Catherine his wife,³⁶ daughter of Sir John Beaumont, of Sherwell, in the county of Devon, and widow of Sir John Streche, Sir John Luttrell, his successor; Robert Luttrell, second son, ancestor of the Luttrells, earls of Carhampton, in Ireland; and Andrew Luttrell, third son.

The following is the translation of a grant of the badge of Courtenay, made by Hugh Courtenay, earl of

³⁶ Among the papers at Dunster Castle there is "A bill of receipt to Dame Elizabeth Haryngton, of £9 16s. 2½d. paid by her to Robert Draper, clerk of Sir Hugh Luttrell's household, lord of Dunster, for the table diet of her and her family and strangers, in the said house, from the 1st of October to the last of December the same year. Dated at Porlock, in Somersetshire, 3rd Jan. 3rd of Henry VI."—PRYNNE'S Index.

In the sixth of Henry VI. Catherine, the wife of Hugh Luttrell, chevalier, had assigned for her dower the manors of Minehead and East-Quantockhead.—Inq. 6 Hen. VI. No. 4.—Cal. Inq. p. m. vol. iv. p. 470.

By an inquisition taken in the fourteenth of Henry VI. Catherine Luttrell was found to hold the castle and borough of Dunster, the maner of Minehead, the manor of Carhampton, the manor of Kilveton with the Hundred of Carhampton and the manors of Sampford-Arundel and East-Quantockhead, with lands and manors in the county of Devon.—Inq. p. m. 14 Hen. VI. No. 30.—Calendar, vol. iv. p. 164.

Devonshire, to this Sir Hugh Luttrell, knight, in the seventh of Henry V. (1419.)

“To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting, Hugh Courtenay, earl of Devon and baron of Oakhampton, wisheth health in God. Know ye, that we have given and granted unto our dear and beloved cousin, Hugh Luttrell, knight, and lord of Dunster, to wear our badge, namely, *a white boar, armed, Or, with this difference only, that he put one double rose d’or in the shoulder of the said boar*, to have and to hold this badge of our gift to him the said Hugh Luttrell and his heirs for ever. In testimony of which we have put our seal to this our letter, dated at Plymouth the 13th of July, in the seventh year of Henry V.”²⁷

It may here be observed, that Luttrell does not bear a boar, but Courtenay of Molland has for his supporters a boar and a swan; and Luttrell’s supporters are two swans.²⁸

By an inquisition taken on the death of this Sir Hugh Luttrell, he was found to hold the castle and borough of Dunster, the manor and Hundred of Carhampton, the manors of Minehead and Kilveton, ninety-five acres of land in Heathfield-Durborough, the manor and advowson of the church of East-Quantockshead, the manor of Sampford-Arundel, with various manors and rents in the counties of Dorset, Devon, Norfolk, and Suffolk.²⁹

²⁷ *Cleveland’s History of the Family of Courtenay*, p. 211.

²⁸ Note by W. Leigh, esq.

²⁹ Inq. p. m. 8 Hen. VI. No. 32.—*Calendar*, vol. iv. p. 115.

Sir John Luttrell, eldest son of Sir Hugh, was with his father in France; and before he became of age was made one of the Knights of the Bath by King Henry IV. at his coronation in 1399, the order being then first instituted. He died in the ninth of Henry VI. one year after his father, being then possessed of the castle, borough, and manor of Dunster; with the fair and the courts of the manor; the hundred and manor of Carhampton; the advowson of the priory of Brewton, the manors of Minehead, Kilveton, and East-Quantockshead.⁴⁰ This Sir John was twice married, first to Joan, daughter of Sir John Malet, of Enmore, by whom he had no children; and secondly to Margaret, daughter of John, Lord Audley, by whom he had James, his only son. The said Margaret⁴¹ died in the seventeenth of Henry VI. possessed of the third part of the castle and borough of Dunster, the manor and Hundred of Carhampton, the manor of Kilveton, and other manors and lands in the counties of Devon and Suffolk.⁴²

Which James Luttrell was in ward to Sir Philip Courtenay, and married Elizabeth,⁴³ daughter and

⁴⁰ Inq. p. m. 9 Hen. VI. No. 51.

⁴¹ By an inquisition taken in the seventeenth of Henry VI. Margaret, who was the wife of John Luttrell, chevalier, was found to hold the manor of Kilveton, a third part of the castle and borough of Dunster, and the manor and Hundred of Carhampton.—Inq. p. m. 17 Hen. VI. No. 14.—Cal. vol. iv. p. 187.

⁴² Inq. p. m. 17 Hen. VI. No. 14.—Calendar, vol. iv. p. 187.

⁴³ Lodge says that she was daughter of Sir Philip Courtenay, and her mother, daughter of Lord Hungerford. She was aunt of William Courtenay, earl of

heiress of Sir William, eldest brother of Sir Edward Courtenay, of Haccombe, who in the first of Henry VII. became earl of Devonshire. This James was always a faithful adherent to the interests of the house of Lancaster, and was at the battle of Wakefield, where the duke of York was killed, and where he was knighted in the field; but soon after, in the second battle of St. Alban's, fighting manfully for King Henry VI. he received several grievous wounds, of which he died the next day. In the first of Edward IV. he was, together with five hundred lords, knights, and esquires, attainted in parliament, and on this attainder his whole estate in the counties of Somerset, Devon, and Suffolk, was declared to be forfeited, and was accordingly seized into the king's hands, notwithstanding it had been vested in the duke of Buckingham, the bishop of London, and others, to preserve an inheritance to his children. All these possessions were granted to Sir William Herbert, who was soon after created Lord Herbert, and afterward earl of Pembroke."

Devonshire, who married a daughter of King Edward IV. She was buried before the high altar in Dunster Church, where there is an inscription to her memory yet remaining. This is the lady whom Leland, erroneously, says was buried in Carhampton Church.—See more of this under Dunster Church, p. 408.

By an inquisition taken in the ninth of Henry VII. Elizabeth, the wife of James Luttrell, was found to hold the manors of East-Quantockhead and Iveton, with certain messuages, lands, and tenements in Exton, Vexford, Rixon, and Stoke-Gomer.—Inq. p. m. 9 Hen. VII. No. 8.—Calendar, vol. iv. p. 478.

⁴⁴ Rex concessit Will. Herbert militi baroni nuper creato in generali tallio castrum manerium et burgum de Dunster, maneria de Mynhedde, Carhampton,

There is an inquisition in the first of Edward IV. relating to the property of this Sir James Luttrell; he was possessed at his death of the castle and borough of Dunster, the manor of Minehead, the manor and hundred of Carhampton, the manor of Kilveton, the manors and advowson of the churches of East-Quantockshead and Iveton; (Yeveton) divers messuages, lands, and tenements in Kentsford, Watchet, Exton, Vexford, Rixon, Stoke-Gomer, and Huish, near High-bridge; also the manors of Chilton, Blanicombe, and Stapleton, in the county of Devon, held of the castle of Dunster, and the manors of Crookston and Ham-Mohun, in the county of Dorset.⁴⁵

The children of this Sir James Luttrell were Alexander, who died soon after his father, and Hugh, as also several daughters, all young at the time of his death. They were subsisted on a rent charge of £50 per annum, which soon after his marriage he had made in trust to James Lots and other trustees, for the use of his younger children. But in the first of Henry VII. Hugh Luttrell, the only surviving son of Sir James, having in a petition set forth to the king in parliament that what his father did and suffered for was the truth

ac Hundred. de Carhampton maneria de Culveton Estcantok alias Cantokes-hede ac Iveton in Com. Som. ac diversas terras in Caynesford et Wagett ac plur. alla hereditamenta in Exton, etc. in Comit. prædict. maneria de Chilton et Blancombe in Com. Devon. ac maneria de Stonehall et Woodhall in Com. Suff. nuper Jacobi Lotterell militis attincti ac unum Mercat. et unum Feriam apud Mynehede per servic. debit.—2 Pat. 4 Edw. IV. m. 20.

⁴⁵ Inq. 1 Edw. IV. No. 43.—Cal. vol. iv. p. 313.

and loyalty which he owed to his sovereign King Henry VI. praying that he might be restored to the lands of his ancestors, the attainder was reversed in parliament.

This Sir Hugh Luttrell was one of the knights of the bath at the coronation of Henry VIIIth's queen. He married two wives, first, Margaret, daughter of Robert Hill, sister by the mother to Lord Daubeny, chamberlain to King Henry VII. and secondly, Walthera,⁴⁶ widow of Thomas Drelne, and afterward of Walter Yorke, merchant of the Stannaries. By his first wife he had Andrew his son, and several other children. In the thirteenth of Henry VII. this Sir Hugh attended the king into the west in the expedition against Perkin Warbeck. He seems to have been a very devout person; for in the second of King Henry VIII. he was, together with his wife Walthera, admitted into the fraternity of the abbey of Athelney, and the same year into that of the abbey of Walsingham, in Norfolk, becoming thereby entitled to the benefit of all the masses, prayers, alms, &c. belonging to the said monasteries.

Among the muniments of Dunster Castle there is an indenture of "John Martin, prior of Flitcham, and the convent of the same, reciting their grant under

⁴⁶ King Henry VIII. his general pardon of all treasons to Walthera, wife of Hugh Luttrell, knight, late wife of John Drelne, (not Drelce) and late wife of Walter Yorke, of Exeter, merchant of the Stannary, committed during the lives of her former husbands. 1 Henry VIII."—*PARSONS'S INDEX.*

seal of a chauntry of two canons in their priory to Sir John de Cheverston, knight, and to the Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, and their heirs and assigns for ever, and the acknowledgment thereof now to Sir Hugh Luttrell, knight, and his heirs, to pray for his soul and for the souls of the said Sir John and Lady Elizabeth, their heirs and assigns for ever. 3 Dec. ninth of Henry V.⁴⁷

There is also the indenture of Richard Vowell, of the monastery of St. Mary, of Walsingham, in the county of Norfolk, and of his convent under their seal, to Sir Andrew Luttrell, knight, son and heir of Hugh Luttrell, knight, deceased, upon consideration of his grant under seal, that the priory of Flitcham, of his ancestor's foundation, a donation, being much impoverished, should be united to their priory of Walsingham; that he and his lady should be incorporated into their fraternity, and participate of the benefit of all their prayers, works, merits, &c.; and should have an anniversary obit and mass for their souls after their decease. And that they would find one canon in the priory of Flitcham, to say mass every day for their souls. And that they would, at their proper cost, once every year at least, for two nights and two days find lodging, provision, and diet for the said Sir Andrew Luttrell, and eight persons, and their horses, in their priory, if he repaired thither so often. And that if

⁴⁷ Prynne's Index.

the said services should be behind and unperformed for one month's space without a reasonable cause, that then they would forfeit to him and his heirs £3 6s. 8d. *nomine pœna*, for every such default, to be levied by them by distress, on all the lands of the priory of Flitcham. Dated 18th of March, 1530; twenty-second of Henry VIII.

There is also a deed of John, the abbot of the monastery of Athelney, and his monks, of their admission of Sir Hugh Lutterell, knight, by unanimous consent into their fraternity, and of his lady into their sistership, and participation of all the benefits of their masses, prayers, alms, fasts, vigils, labours, and a mass for their souls after their decease. Dated in their chapter house of Athelney, the last day but one of September, 1510.⁴⁸

There is a grant in Dunster Castle of Peter Courtenay, bishop of Winchester, to Sir Hugh Luttrell, his kinsman of the mastership of his park of Poundisford, within the manor of Taunton, with the herbage thereof, for the term of his life, rendering the rent of sixty shillings yearly, and ten pounds per annum annuity for his life out of the manors of Taunton and Poundisford. Dated at Southwark, 4 Dec. 1487.

He was succeeded, in the second year of King Henry VIII. by Andrew Luttrell, his son and heir, who was knighted in the twenty-first of that reign, in which year he was sheriff of the counties of Somerset and

⁴⁸ Prynn's Index to the muniments in Dunster Castle.

Dorset. He was likewise one of those who were appointed to collect the first fruits and tenths, which had been declared by parliament to be in the king. This Sir Andrew resided chiefly at Quantockshead, where he died in the thirtieth of Henry VIII. leaving issue by Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Wyndham,⁴⁹ of Felbridge, in the county of Norfolk, Sir John Luttrell of Dunster, Thomas, Richard, (ancestor of the Luttrells of Hartland, Honibere, Sandon-Court, and Chelsea) Andrew, and Hugh, and several daughters.⁵⁰

Collinson⁵¹ calls this Richard the third son of Sir Andrew, Nicholas, and says that in the reign of King Edward VI. he made Honibere-Court the place of his residence, and was ancestor of the Luttrells of Hartland and Sandon Court, in the county of Devon, and of those of Chelsea, in the county of Middlesex. Andrew Luttrell, son of the said Nicholas or Richard, sold the manors of Honibere and Lilstock, in the fortieth of Queen Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Palmer, of Fairfield, knight, for a long term, who dying intestate, his widow and administratrix conveyed the same back to the children of the said Andrew, in the seventh of James I. But soon after Sir Nicholas Halswell, John Colles, and others, purchased again the manor of Honibere

⁴⁹ Ancestor of the present earl of Egremont.

⁵⁰ Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Andrew Luttrell, married Richard Malet, of Enmore, esq. and left an only son, Thomas Malet, esq. The said Richard died in the sixth of Edward VI.

⁵¹ History of Somerset, vol. iii. p. 534.

and certain lands particularly specified, including the court-house and mill, and lands formerly belonging to Robert Vernai, for the children of Sir Thomas Palmer, in whose representatives they still remain.

John, eldest son of Sir Andrew, was, in the thirty-sixth of Henry VIII., with the earl of Hertford in Scotland, and present at the taking of Edinburgh and Leith, when he was knighted. Two years afterward he was with the said earl of Hertford at Boulogne, and had the command of one hundred men. In the time of King Edward VI. he was in the wars of Scotland, and commanded three hundred men at the battle of Mussleborough, where, it is said, he behaved with such prowess and wisdom, as gained him the character of a complete captain;⁵² having before that of a complete and worthy courtier. Indeed it appears that he had the reputation of being a person of great valour, zealous for the service of his prince, and exceedingly desirous of glory; to obtain which he spared no expense, and by that means greatly exhausted the fair patrimony which descended to him from his ancestors; selling great part of his demesnes at Dunster, Kilton, and elsewhere; and at last mortgaging the plate and furniture belonging to Dunster Castle, and his other houses.⁵³

⁵² He bravely defended Broughly Castle, of which he was governor, (having succeeded Sir Ambrose Dudley, brother of John, duke of Northumberland) against the Scots, where he was taken prisoner, and his whole garrison put to the sword.—*Londox's Peerage*, vol. iii. p. 406.

⁵³ There is at Dunster Castle a parchment note of the marks of Sir John and Sir Andrew Luttrell's swans, set upon their bills, belonging to the castle

This appears to have been asserted by Collinson without authority. Had great part of the demesnes of Dunster, Kilton, and elsewhere, been sold by Sir John Luttrell in the reign of Edward VI. it would not be easy to account for Prynne's having found at the castle all the title deeds of the estates which he employed himself, with his characteristic industry, in arranging in so regular an order, and in compiling so perfect an index to them, that it is at this day a matter of no difficulty whatever to find any one of them. Collinson mentions Kilton as one of the places where part of the demesnes were sold; now the only parts of that manor which do not belong to the present owner of Dunster Castle were alienated in the early part of the last century by his great-grandfather, Alexander Luttrell. The only other place which Collinson specifies where any part of the demesnes were sold is Dunster, where it is difficult to believe that any considerable portion of the demesnes should have been sold by Sir John Luttrell. Of the other freeholds there, not now belonging to the lord of the manor, many can be traced up to the grants by John de Mohun to his burgesses; whilst on the other hand, there is not any

at Dunster by inheritance, and always kept at the mere at Glastonbury, in the reign of Henry VIII.

"A grant of Edward VI. by advice and consent of his privy council, of one annuity of one hundred marks payable quarterly to Sir John Luttrell, during his life, out of the king's exchequer, for the good and faithful services done and to be done by, &c. Dated at Hedges, 24 July, 4 Edward VI."—PRYNNE'S Index.

trace that any part of the principal possessions of Avill, Staunton, Alcombe, and Marsh, had ever formed part of the demesnes of the castle, although they all were unquestionably held of the castle by feudal services. Staunton and Marsh are now parts of the family estate by purchase by the late John Fownes Luttrell, esq. the former of the Rev. — Hall, the latter of the late Lord Stawel. Collinson confuses with this Marsh the ancient estate of Marshwood, within the parish of Carhampton, which, as far as can be traced, has been held, together with the castle, from the earliest date.

His wife's name was Mary Griffith, daughter of Sir John Griffith, Knight of the Bath, of North Wales, who soon after his death was married to James Godolphin, of the county of Cornwall. He had issue by the said Mary three daughters, heiresses to a third part of his estate, the other parts being by two entails, and by the will of this Sir John, given to Thomas Luttrell his brother.

Which Thomas, in order to preserve the remainder clear from his nieces' portions and his brother's debts, sold all the lands in Devonshire and Suffolk, which lands were fully replaced in this county, by his marriage with Margaret, sole daughter and heiress of Christopher Hadley, of Withycombe, great-grand-daughter of Philippa, daughter of Sir Humphrey Audley, by Elizabeth, widow of Sir James Luttrell. On occasion of this consanguinity, a special bull was obtained in the fifth of Philip and Mary, from Pope Paul V. This

Thomas Luttrell died in the thirteenth of Elizabeth, (1570) Margaret his wife surviving him, who was afterward married to John Strode, of Parnham, and thirdly to Richard Hill, esq.

George Luttrell, his eldest son, inherited his father's and mother's lands, and was sheriff of Somersetshire in the thirty-fifth of Elizabeth. (1593) He added greatly to the buildings of Dunster Castle, and was celebrated for his hospitality, and the general love and respect of his neighbours. He also built the old market house yet standing in the Fore Street, Dunster. He lived to a great age, dying in 1630, having married two wives; first Joan,⁵⁴ daughter of Hugh Stewkley, of Marsh, in this parish, by whom he had Thomas, his successor; and secondly, Sylvestra Capper, afterward married to Sir Edmund Story, and next to Gyles Penny. By this last mentioned lady he had two daughters,

⁵⁴ Among the muniments at Dunster Castle, there are "articles exhibited in the spiritual court about a contract of marriage between George Luttrell, esq. and Joan Stewkley, which some of his friends endeavoured to dissolve."

"Abstracts of several settlements of Thomas Luttrell on Jane Popham; by George Luttrell on Elizabeth Prideaux; and after on Honora Fortescue; also of Francis Luttrell in the time of King James I. Charles I. and II.

"An indenture by George Luttrell, in consideration of £1200, and a marriage already had between Honora Fortescue, daughter of John Fortescue, of Buckland-Filleigh, in the county of Devon, esq.

"Articles of Agreement between George Luttrell and John Fraunceis, of Combe-Flory, esq. Thomas his eldest son, William his second son, and John the younger son, touching a marriage between John Fraunceis the younger and Susan Luttrell, daughter of the said George Luttrell. He also had a daughter Elizabeth. His eldest daughter, Margaret, married John Trevelyan, son of John Trevelyan, of Nettlecombe, in the sixth of James I.

Diana, the wife of Alexander Lynde, esq. and Sarah, married to John Wogan.

Thomas, eldest son of the said George Luttrell, by his wife Joan Stewkley, married in his father's life-time, Jane, the daughter of Sir Francis Popham, of Littlecot, knight, and died in 1647, leaving by her several sons, of whom George, Francis, and Thomas were successively lords of Dunster Castle. Thomas, the third son, married Lucy, daughter of Thomas Simonds, of Cambridgeshire, esq. and was father of two sons, Francis and Alexander.

Francis Luttrell, the eldest son, married Jane, sole heiress of John Tregonwell, of Milton Abbey, in the county of Dorset, esq. and died at Plymouth in 1690, being then colonel of a regiment in the service of King William; leaving by the said Jane one son, Tregonwell Luttrell, who died without issue in 1706, and two daughters; Mary, the wife of Sir George Rooke, vice-admiral of England; and Frances, wife first of Edward Hervey, esq. and afterward of Edward Ashe, of Heytesbury, in the county of Wilts, esq.

On the death of Tregonwell Luttrell, in 1706, Alexander his uncle succeeded to the estates of Dunster Castle, &c. He served in all the wars in Flanders during the reign of King William; and in Queen Anne's time was colonel of the royal regiment of marines. He was also, during the greater part of those reigns, member of parliament for the borough of Minehead. He died in 1714, leaving by Dorothy his wife, daughter

of Edward Yard, of Churston, in the county of Devon, two sons; Alexander Luttrell, lord of the manors of Dunster and Quantockshead, and Francis Luttrell.

Alexander Luttrell married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Trevelyan, of Nettlecombe, bart. but dying without male issue, he left his estates to descend to one sole daughter and heiress, Margaret, married to Henry Fownes, of Nethway, in the county of Devon, esq. who thereupon assumed the name of Luttrell, and was father of the late John Fownes Luttrell, esq. of Dunster Castle, and member of parliament for the borough of Minehead; and also of Francis Fownes Luttrell, esq. late one of the commissioners of customs; and of the Rev. Alexander Fownes Luttrell, rector of East-Quantockshead, who died in 1810.

The last-mentioned John Fownes Luttrell, esq. M. P. died in the year 1816, having married Miss Drewe, of Grange, in the county of Devon, who is now living at Dunster, by whom he left issue,

1. John Fownes Luttrell, esq. M. P. for the borough of Minehead, the present owner of Dunster Castle.

2. Henry Fownes Luttrell, esq. commissioner of public accounts.

3. Francis Fownes Luttrell, esq. a captain in the army, married to Miss Drewe, by whom he has issue.

4. Rev. Alexander Fownes Luttrell, rector of East-Quantockshead, married to Miss Leader, by whom he has issue.

5. Rev. Thomas Fownes Luttrell, vicar of Minehead, and incumbent curate of Dunster.

6. Mary Anne Fownes Luttrell.
 7. Margaret Fownes Luttrell.
 8. Harriet Fownes Luttrell.
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I have placed here several extracts from the "calendars of the proceedings in chancery in the reign of Queen Elizabeth," printed in 1827, by order of the commissioners of records. These extracts relate to various chancery suits, in which many individuals of the family of Luttrell, during that reign, were parties, but in no case is the year mentioned.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, (the year not specified) there were some proceedings in the court of chancery, wherein Richard Welthian and Florence Bartlett were plaintiffs, and John Castone and John Grimes, defendants, relating to deeds, evidences, &c. concerning land in Wilmack-Ham, in the parish of Burnham, of which Sir Andrew and Sir John Luttrell, knights, were seized, &c. whose descendant, Nicholas Luttrell, conveyed to complainant.

Also, wherein Henry Blackwell was plaintiff, and George Luttrell, esq. defendant, relating to a claim by copy of court-roll in a tenement held for lives of the defendant; as lord of the manor of Carhampton.

Also, wherein Richard Bartlett was plaintiff, and Thomas Luttrell, esq. defendant, relating to the manor of Honibere and Lilstock, of which Nicholas Luttrell was seized in fee;

Also, wherein Richard Bartlett was plaintiff, and Thomas Luttrell, esq. defendant, relating to a claim by lease to messuages and lands in Honibere and Lilstock, demised by Nicholas Luttrell, esq. deceased, to plaintiff's father.

Also, wherein John Drenycke was plaintiff, and Honor Luttrell and Ralph Tregragon, defendants, relating to deeds in support of plaintiff's title by descent, under a settlement, to lands in Tresmere, Jacobstowe, St. Martin, and East-Love, in the county of Cornwall, sometime the estate of Robert Langdon, and by him settled on John Trehawke and his issue. The plaintiff's pedigree is stated in these proceedings.

Note, The Honor Luttrell, here mentioned, was the wife or widow of George Luttrell, esq. and daughter of John Fortescue, of Buckland-Filleigh, esq.

Also, wherein Peter Edgcombe, esq. and Margaret his wife were plaintiffs, and George Luttrell, esq. defendant, relating to a bill for payment of a legacy charged on the castle and borough of Dunster, and the hundred and manor of Carbinton (meaning Carhampton) in the county of Somerset, and a tenement called Blaincombe, in the county of Devon, late the estate of Sir John Luttrell, knight, deceased, the testator.

Also, wherein Peter Edgcombe and Margaret his wife were plaintiffs, and George Luttrell and others defendants, relating to a claim under a will to the late dissolved priory of Dunster, late the estate of Dame Margaret Luttrell, widow, mother of the plaintiff Margaret.

Also, wherein William Frye, esq. was plaintiff, and George Luttrell, esq. defendant, to establish common rights, or right of common upon the defendant's land called Penton Downe, in the parish of Minehead, claimed by plaintiff in right of his manor of Bratton, in the said parish of Minehead, and also a stream of water rising in defendant's ground, and running to a weare of plaintiffs near the sea, to take fish.

LIST OF FREEHOLDERS IN DUNSTER.

J. F. Luttrell, esq.	Heirs of Hugh Escott
Thomas Hole, esq.	Mrs. Williams
James Hole, esq.	Mr. Rowle
Miss Jenkins	Mr. J. B. Southwood
Mr. Basstene	Dr. Crang
Sir T. D. Acland, bart.	Mr. Bowering
Mr. Giles Edmunds	Mr. T. Abraham
Mr. Amos Greenslade	Mr. Barns
Mr. John Lettey	Mr. James Case
Mr. William Lettey	Mr. Robert Harvey
Mr Thomas Lettey	Mr. William Gale
— Elton, esq.	Mr. William Hooper
Mr. James Taylor	Mr. Thomas Markham
Mr. William Horne	Mr. R. Withers
Mr. Syderfin	Mr. R. Rawle
Mrs. Davis	Miss Bryant
Rev. T. S. Escott	Mr. William Withycombe.
Mr. Robert Leigh	

EXFORD.⁵⁵

DESCRIPTION.—RECTORY.—CHURCH.—STATISTICS.—TAXES.—POPULATION.—CHARITIES.—MANOR.—HAMLETS.—EDGEWATER.—LOWER MILL.—ALMSWORTHY.

THE parish of Exford occupies the south-west corner of the hundred; it is bounded by the ancient forest of Exmoor on the west, Porlock and Stoke-Pero on the north, on the east by Cutcombe and a detached part of the parish of Timberscombe, and by the hundred of Williton and the Free-Manors on the south. It con-

⁵⁵ Exford, so called from the river *Es*, and the Anglo-Saxon *Ford*, the same as the Latin *Vadum*, a wading, or walking passage or road through shallow water; that is, a ford over the river *Es*.

Thre, in his *Glossarium Sui-Gothicum*, says that the word *Ford* is of the highest antiquity; and he deduces it from the Latin *Angiportus*, which he views as formed from the Mæso-Gothic *Agvus*, pronounced *Angvus*, narrow, and *Fort*, a road or way.

In the Sui-Gothic, *Fort* signifies a common way, synonymously with the Anglo-Saxon word *Gate*, a road or way. In the laws of Jutland, *Fort* is used in the same sense; as also is the Welch *Fford*, and the Alemannic *Fort*.

In the Anglo-Saxon it is *Ford*, Teutonic *Fahrt*, *Fort*; derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Færen*, Belgic *Væren*, Teutonic *Fahren*, all signifying the same as the Latin *Vadum*, a wading or walking passage or road through shallow water.

tains about five thousand acres of land, of which one half is inclosed and cultivated, and the remainder is in commons. The inclosed part consists of one long deep valley, and several smaller ones running laterally into it: the river *Ex* flows through the principal one. The lands in these valleys in general are good, and they lie warm and sheltered; great numbers of cattle and sheep are bred in them. Large flocks of sheep are kept on the surrounding hills, and many horses; the latter are generally a cross breed from the aboriginal Exmoor ponies and the common hackney; they usually rise from thirteen to fourteen and a half hands high, and commonly turn out very hardy, safe, and useful animals. Some knot sheep are kept in the valleys, but those on the hills are always of the horned kind.

The road that enters Exmoor from the east runs through this parish, and is, for the country, a good one. J. Knight, esq., since he purchased Exmoor, and the Rev. Joseph Ralph, since he came to the living here, have caused the roads in this place and neighbourhood to be greatly improved; much however might yet be done. In our experience it has often happened that the occupiers of the soil, who have violently opposed the formation of new, or the improvement of old roads, looking at nothing but the expence to themselves, and deaf to all that has been said to them about future advantages to be derived from such improvements, have, after they have been compleated a few years, acknowledged with pleasure "'twas a capital job

doné." Could a former inhabitant of this and many other parishes, who died fifty or sixty years since, or even much later, rise from the grave and revisit the scene of his living, home, and farm, one of the first things he would miss would be his long string of pack horses that used to consume so much of the produce of his farm now eaten by saleable stock; and in the place of dersels and crooks he would find carts and puts. Mr. Court, of Court Farm, who does not appear to be more than fifty years of age, says "he can remember when there was only one cart in this parish." The soil here is mostly white rag lying over the granwacke. There are no lime rocks worked here. The farms are mostly dairy and breeding ones. The dairy farmers in the hill-country do not, like the dairymen of the low lands, make rich cheese, but butter and an inferior sort of cheese from the milk after the cream is taken off, called, from that circumstance, skim-milk cheese. The principal grain grown for sale is oats. There is no manor house here, nor are there any courts baron or lect held in the parish, which is divided into many separate freeholds, and has been so for many ages; some of these are occupied by their owners, and many of them have been a long time in the possession of the same family. The Mr. Court, of Court Farm, before mentioned, says that he and his ancestors have owned and occupied that farm more than five hundred years.

The village is pleasantly situated along the banks of

the *Er*, over which is a stone bridge of three arches ; it is distant from Dunster about eleven miles south-west, from Dulverton eight north-west, and south-west from Taunton about thirty miles. Here are two inns, and some shops ; this village is much improved since Mr. Knight began his improvements on Exmoor. A revel is held here once a year ; indeed there are revels held, once in the same period, in almost all the parishes in this neighbourhood ; the principal attraction of all of them is the wrestling ring ; the play is the same as in Devonshire, but here the players do not pad their legs ; the hill country men have the character of being good players.

There are two hamlets in this parish, namely, Edgecot and Lower-Mill ; and two mesne manors, Monkham and Almsworthy. About a mile and an half eastward of the church, are the vestiges of some ancient iron works, in carrying on which, tradition says, much of the wood that once grew on Exmoor was consumed ; many of the old pits where the ore was dug still remain, and great quantities of the scoria is found about them. The river *Er*, which runs through a considerable part of this parish, rises on Exmoor, as does another called the *Barle*, a much larger stream ; these form a junction some distance above the village, and from thence their united waters take the name of the former and smaller river ; the *Er* and its tributary streams, for some distance from its source, swarm with trout ; and their banks being generally free from bushes, afford fine fly-fishing.

The dialect spoken here is very broad, as it is all round the forest. There are many barrows on the hills in the neighbourhood, and some circles of stones.

The living is a rectory, in the deanery of Dunster, and in 1292 was valued at ten marks. It is valued in the king's books at £18 2s. 7½d. Its present value is about £350 per annum. The patronage was anciently appurtenant to the manor of Eastbury, and vested in the family of Perceval, whose arms, namely, on a chief indented, three crosses formée, were sculptured on the church-porch here. In 1706, William Trenchard, esq. presented to this living, and in 1752, the college of Peter House, Cambridge. In the Valor Ecclesiasticus there are the following particulars relating to this benefice :—

1535. John Wyks, Rector.

Annual value of the demesne, or glebe

lands	2	0	0
Tithes of wool and lamb	3	0	0
Predial tithes	5	0	0
Personal tithes and other casualties . .	8	12	4

£18 12 4

Out of which there is paid

To the archdeacon for Synodals and

procurations 0 9 8½

Clear £18 2 7½

Tenths 1 16 3½

The patronage of the living now belongs to the college of Peter House, Cambridge.

The following is a list of the rectors, as far as we can trace them.

1653. Nicholas Ives.

1671. Nathaniel Arundel.

1706. Francis Squire.

1752. Chapell Cox.

1788. William Beville.

1822. Joseph Ralph, the present incumbent, who has, at his own expence, rebuilt the parsonage-house and planted many hedge-rows, and made some plantations about the house, altogether in good taste.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, stands on a little eminence, a short distance to the east of the village, on the left-hand side of the road leading to Dunster. It is a good gothic structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south-aisle, all covered with tile. At the west end is an embattled tower, seventy feet high, containing four bells. The aisle is divided from the nave by four well-turned arches, supported by handsome pillars with ornamented capitals. The font is of an octagonal shape and sculptured.

Against the south wall of the chancel, on a tablet, is the following inscription:—"Close under this wall resteth the body of Robert Baker, whose extraordinary virtues deserve to be had in everlasting remembrance. His life was a pattern of piety towards God and in-

tegrity towards man; of industry without covetousness; liberality without pride; charity without ostentation. He was the most upright dealer, the kindest neighbour, the tenderest husband, and the surest friend. He had wisdom to contrive, and courage to execute, the most difficult undertaking for the cause of truth and justice, and in defence of the innocent. He was born of honest parents, and by hard labour increased his substance, which he readily bestowed on all occasions for the honour of God and in support of the needy. He was married once, and left behind him a widow, the faithful partner of his good works. He died without issue, but made the poor the care of his life and the heirs of a good part of his estate. He came from Hawkridge young, laboured, thrived, married, and settled in this parish, and changed this life for a better April 25th, 1730, aged 68." This is the Robert Baker mentioned by the Commissioners of Charities, in whose report there must be an error about the date of his will, which they say was in 1755, whereas he died in 1730. From the tradition of the neighbours, he was an extraordinary character. He was a miller and farmer: pious; very industrious; ready to go any distance or do any thing which an honest man could do for the sick, the orphan, or the unfortunate; and benevolent to a fault. It is recorded of him that he was at work in a field by the road side, in an inclement season of the year, when he was accosted by a half-naked, half-starved beggar, who had come over Exmoor, to whom he gave all the

food he had taken with him for his dinner and nearly all his clothes, and arrived home long before his usual time, very much to the surprise of his good wife, more than half naked and very hungry.

On the north-wall of the chancel are the following on tablets:—"Near this are deposited the mortal remains of the Rev. Chappell Cox, A. M., thirty six years rector of this parish, who died Aug. 16th, 1788, aged 70. Fidelity as a pastor, sincerity as a friend, and benevolence to all, conspired to adorn that Christian example which gave force to his instructions, always delivered with an earnestness becoming a preacher of the gospel. Here also are deposited the bodies of Sarah Cox, his mother, who died Feb. 9, 1790, aged 84. Sarah Cox, his sister, who died Jan. 17, 1787, aged 66. Richard Cox, his brother, who died April 14, 1787, aged 60. Charity Cox, twin sister of Sarah, who died March 27, 1788, aged 67; and of Anna, wife of the above-named Richard Cox, who died Feb. 16th, 1806, aged 70 years."

"Near this place are interred the remains of Sarah Ann, wife of Capt. Murdock Mackenzie, R. N., of Minehead, in this county, and daughter of the late Richard Cox, esq. who departed this life 26th July, 1826, aged 73 years."

Against the wall of the nave there is a monument to the memory of William Gundry, who died 12 Jan. 1703, and gave £10 to the poor of this parish. And in the aisle, another to the memory of Mary Tudball, who died 28 Jan. 1819, aged 98 years.

The earliest date in the register is 1609; it is perfect during the period of the Commonwealth, when it was beautifully engrossed in latin.

In 1645, the plague was in Exford, and thirty-four persons were buried in that year, fourteen of them in the month of August. The average number of burials then as now was about five in a year.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £43 9s. 11d. and in 1785, £73 4s. 9d.

In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates, was £219 16s. 8d. at 10s. 3½d. in the pound. In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, with part of the hamlet of Almsworthy, as assessed to the property tax, was £1432. In 1818, the county rate was £1 9s. 10d.

In 1801, the resident population of this parish was 375.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Exford stands thus.—

Houses inhabited.	68
Uninhabited	5
Building	0
Families	74
Of whom were employed	
In agriculture	28
In trade	9
All others	37

Persons, 373:—viz.

Males	202
Females	171

So that the population of this parish, in the last twenty years, appears to be decreasing.

In 1815, there were thirty-five poor in this parish.

In Collinson's History of Somerset, it is stated that a charity school was founded here by Mr. Cox and Mrs. Musgrove, for teaching ten poor children to read, for each of whom the master was allowed two shillings a quarter; but how is this to be reconciled with the Rev. J. Baynes's report in 1818, in which he states that there is no school here, and that the poor are desirous of possessing the means of education?

In the Fifteenth Report of the Commissioners of Charities, printed by order of the House of Commons in 1826, there is the following account of charities belonging to this parish.

ROBERT BAKER'S CHARITY.

Robert Baker, by his will, dated the 7th of January, 1755, devised all his messuage or tenement of Lower-Mill, with the appurtenances, unto Francis Squire, the then rector of Exford, and divers other persons therein mentioned, their heirs, successors, and assigns, for ever, in trust, out of the clear rents and profits of the said premises, to pay unto the parson, churchwardens,

and overseers of the poor, for the time being, of the parish of Hawkrige, the clear annual sum of forty shillings on the first Sunday after the Feast of All Saints, in the parish church of Hawkrige aforesaid, immediately after divine service, which said annuity of forty shillings he gave to the use of the poor of the said parish of Hawkrige for ever, to be, by the churchwardens and overseers for the time being, with the approbation and direction of the parson and two of the principal inhabitants of the said parish, bestowed in warm, convenient, profitable clothing and apparel for such poor people, not having weekly or monthly relief, as should be deemed to stand most in need of and deserve the same.

And upon further trust, that they should yearly, at Christmas, divide and distribute in such clothing as aforesaid, all the rest and residue of the clear rents and profits of the said premises, amongst such poor day-labourers and other poor people of the parish of Exford, not having parish relief, as they, the said trustees, or the major part of them, their heirs, successors, and assigns, should adjudge to stand most in need of and deserve the same.

And he further directed, that when any one of the trustees should die or remove from the parish, the survivor or residue of the said trustees should elect some honest and substantial inhabitant of the parish in his room, so as to keep up the number of ten trustees.

And he directed, that his poor relations should have

the preference as objects of the said charity, and that a regular account should be kept in a book of the receipts and expenditure of the same.

The property consists of a dwelling-house, a mill-house, a malt-house, and a cottage-house, and garden, with six acres of land, which are let for the term of seven years, at a rent of £20 7s. per annum, which is considered a fair rent for the same.

The rents have been always regularly distributed, according to the directions of the donor, under the management of the rector of the parish, for the time being; and the trustees have from the beginning kept a book, exhibiting an account of the receipts and expenditure every year. The clothing purchased is such as is deemed most suitable to the particular wants of those who are relieved, and none receive the benefit of the charity that are upon the parish books.

The £2 a year, given to Hawkrigde parish, is regularly paid to the same.

WILLIAM GUNDRY'S GIFT.

A sum of £10, stated in the returns under Gilbert's act in 1786, to have been left by *William Gundry* to this parish, is understood to have been laid out in the repairs of the corn mill left by Robert Baker, as above-mentioned.

A sum of £57, also mentioned in the same returns, as belonging to this parish, cannot be traced, and must be considered as lost.

JOHN GREGORY'S CHARITY.

John Gregory, who died about the year 1787, left by his will the sum of £20, and directed that the interest arising therefrom should yearly, for ever, be distributed amongst the poor of the parish not receiving parochial relief, at the disposal of Mr. William Gregory, or the officiating minister of the parish. The annual sum of £1 is regularly paid by Messrs. William and James Clatworthy, who are the personal representatives of the said William Gregory, to the minister of the parish, who distributes it according to the directions of the will.

This manor was one of those that were annexed to the great honour of Dunster. In the time of Edward the Confessor, Exford appears from Domesday Book to have been held by two different lords, Domno and Sarpo, but at the conquest these two manors were given to William de Mohun, and thus became united. They are described in that record as follows:—

“ William de Mohun holds AISSEFORD. *Domno* (*Domus, Exon. D.*) held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one ferling. The arable land is as much as two oxen can till (two bovates.) There is one villan; and fifteen acres of pasture. It was and is worth fifteen pence.”⁵⁶

“The same William holds AISSEFORD, which was

⁵⁶ Ex. D. vol. i. fo. 95. b. col. 2.

held in the time of King Edward by Sarpo. It was assessed to the geld for one ferling and a half. The arable land is only half sufficient for one plough, but it lies in pasture, and renders twelve pence."⁸⁷

How the family of Mohun parted with this manor does not appear. In very early times it is evident that the principal estate in Exford belonged to the Cistercian abbey of Neath, in Glamorganshire, founded about A. D. 1147, by Richard and Constantia de Grainville. The prior of the convent received out of this manor an annual pension of fifty-five shillings. This manor is still called MONKHAM, from its ancient owners ; and it did belong to Hugh Vessey, esq. but is now the property of John Knight, esq. the owner of Exmoor.

ALMSWORTHY.

The manor of Almsworthy was anciently and for many generations the lordship of the family of Durborough, of Heathfield. In the time of Queen Elizabeth it belonged to Nicholas Bluet ; it now belongs to Sir T. D. Acland, bart.

EDGE COT.

The hamlet of Edgecot is situate half a mile westward of the church.

LOWER-MILL.

This hamlet is one mile westward of the church.

⁸⁷ Ex. D. vol. i. fo. 96. b. col. 2.

TIMBERSCOMBE.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARISH.—VICARAGE.—CHURCH.—STATISTICAL
NOTICES.—RATES AND TAXES.—POPULATION.—CHARITIES.—
MANOR.—DOMESDAY SURVEY.—FAMILY OF ARUNDEL.—HAM-
LETS.—BICCOMBE.—FAMILY OF BICCOMBE.

TIMBERSCOMBE, pronounced by the country people Immercombe, is a small parish, bounded on the north by those of Wootton-Courtenay and Minehead; on the east by Dunster and Carhampton; on the south by Luxborough and Cutcombe, and by the latter parish on the west. There are two detached portions of this parish, the one lying between Cutcombe and Exford, and the other between Selworthy and Minehead. A part of Croydon Hill⁵⁸ is in this parish. A stream which rises in the parish of Luxborough runs through the village, and just below it joins another coming from Dunkery, of which we have spoken before; these turn two mills and run under two stone bridges in this parish. The principal part of this parish is on the south side, and about the middle of the valley, which we have described as lying on the south side of Grabhurst; out of which two lateral combes, as they are here called, or

⁵⁸ Croydon, from the British, *Crocā*, the same as the Latin *Asper*, rugged, rough; and *Duan*, a hill, that is, the hill of rugged appearance.

small valleys, run, one in a southerly and the other in a south-westerly direction. In the last of these is the manor-house of Bickham, formerly the residence of different lords of the manor, and now occupied by Mr. Ridsen, who farms the estate. It has two wings at right angles with the body of the building, in one of which there was formerly a chapel. The cider made from the apples grown in the orchards at Bickham is celebrated in the neighbourhood for its excellence. The village stands at the junction of the old with the new turnpike road leading from Dunster to Dulverton, along the sides of both which the principal part of the houses stand; in it are two public-houses and one or two shops. A revel is held here once a year. Most of the lands about the village are very good, and those of the parish generally of fair quality; here also are some fine woods, and a lime rock which is worked. The following are the principal proprietors of freeholds in Timberscombe :—

John Needham, esq., lord of the manor.

Earl of Carnarvon.

Sir T. D. Acland, bart.

Montague Baker Bere, esq., barrister at law.

James Hole, esq.

Robert Hole, esq.

Mr. N. Merchant.

Mr. John Taylor.

Mr. Robert Blackmore.

Mr. Thomas Tudball.

This parish being situated in valleys, in and by which are still some woods, which most likely, were once much more extensive, undoubtedly had its name from that circumstance; *timber* being the Saxon term for wood, and *Combe* that for a valley. In like manner many *Combes* in this neighbourhood were denominated from the particular kind of wood that grew about them, as *Withycombe*, from *Withig*, a withy or willow, and *Combe* a valley; *Thorncombe* from *Thorn* a thorn, and *Combe*; *Ashcombe* from *Æsc*, an Ash tree, and *Combe*. Nay, even some of these spots, thus deeply situated, were denominated from very inferior products of nature, of which we have a notable instance, in the name of the parish of *Nettlecombe*, which comes from *Netele*, a Nettle, of which plant in all probability, great plenty grew in that parish. And some had their derivatives from some particularity of situation, as *Luccombe*, called in *Domesday Book* *Locumbe*, which is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Loc* and *Combe*, signifying an inclosed valley; and *Widcombe*, from *Wid*, wide, and *Combe*, that is, a wide or extended valley.

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Dunster, and is valued in the king's books at £6 10s. It is discharged from the payment of tenths, the clear yearly value having been certified to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty to be £37 4s. It is at present worth about £150 per annum. It is in the patronage, and is a peculiar in the jurisdiction of, the prebendary of

Timberscombe, in the cathedral church of Wells. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* there are the following particulars relating to this benefice :—

1535. John Lawghill, Vicar.

Annual value of the demesne, or glebe

lands	0	13	4
Tithes of lamb and wool	1	10	0
Oblations	0	4	0
Personal tithes and other casualties ..	4	2	8
	<hr/>		
	£6	10	0

LIST OF VICARS.

George Robins, vicar, died 1710.

1721. Robert Hembrough was vicar.

1722. William Kymer.

1730. John Baker.

1755. George Knyfton.

—— Rocket.

—— Bradley.

—— Whitehead, present vicar.

Timberscombe gives name to a prebend in the cathedral church of Wells, which prebend, in 1291, was valued at eight marks. In the year 1471, John Nesfeld, esq., recovered the presentation to this prebend, against the bishop of Bath and Wells, and by virtue of the king's writ, Robert Wilson, LL. B. was instituted

to the said prebend. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* there are the following particulars relating to this prebend:—

1535. William Villers, prebendary and rector.

Annual value of the demesne, or glebe

lands of the said prebend and rectory 2 0 0

Predial tithes and other casualties . . 4 0 0

£6 0 0

Out of which there is annually paid to

the vicars choral of the said cathe-

dral church 1 6 8

Clear £4 13 4

The church is a neat gothic edifice, dedicated to St. Michael, and consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and north porch; and it has at the west end an embattled tower crowned with a low spire, a clock, and five bells.

By an inscription on the north-side of the tower, it appears that it was built by the same Richard Elsworth, esq. who endowed the charity school here, and gave the altar-piece to the church. The aisle is divided from the nave and chancel by four arches, and a handsome screen separates the chancel from the nave. In the east window of the aisle there is some painted glass, but it is obscured by white-wash. There is a handsome octagonal font, deeply sculptured. There are no monuments, or perfect monumental stones in this church, but there are the remains of some of the latter in the chancel,

which appear to have been taken up and used in relaying the floor. One of them bears an inscription to the memory of a person of the name of Worth; the date is wanting, but it is of the form and character of other stones in the neighbouring churches, about the latter end of the sixteenth century. The register begins in 1656, and is perfect from that date. It is recorded in it "that on the 17th Nov. 1688, a wandering youth was buried;" and in 1696, "a wandering woman was buried."

The altar-piece, which is very neat, was given by Richard Elsworth, esq. His arms are per pale, indented, *Gules* and *Argent*, four lions rampant, counterchanged.

There is the following inscription on the back of the screen :—" Richard Elsworth, of Bickham, esq., upon his last will, gave this altar-piece to the church. He died August 5th, 1714, aged 22 years, and lies buried in this church.

In the church-yard there are the remains of a stone cross.

In 1776, the money expended in this parish on account of the poor, was £45 14s.; and in 1785, £63 11s. 2d.

In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £282 2s., at 7s. in the pound.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, as assessed to the property tax, was £1908. In 1818, the county rate was £1 19s. 9d.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons in 1818, it is stated that there is a weekly and Sunday school here, supported by the principal landholder, in which from forty to fifty children are instructed.

In 1815 there were thirty-six poor here.

In 1801 the resident population of this parish was 356.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Timberscombe stands thus:—

Houses inhabited	74
Uninhabited	2
Building	0
Families ..	81
Of whom were employed	
In agriculture	54
In trade	25
All others	2
Persons 409 :—viz.	
Males	202
Females	207

In the Fifteenth Report on the subject of charities, printed by order of the House of Commons, in 1826, there is the following account of charities belonging to the parish of Timberscombe:—

RICHARD ELSWORTH'S CHARITY.

Richard Elsworth, by his will, dated the 11th of

July, 1714, gave the yearly sum of £10 towards teaching the poor children to read, write, and repeat the catechism, in the parish of Timberscombe, for ever. He also gave and bequeathed £10 a year for ever, towards clothing the poorest children of the said parish, and the yearly sum of £10 towards teaching the poor children of the parish of Cutcombe to read, write, and repeat the catechism.

He also gave the yearly sum of £10, for ever, towards the buying of Spelling Books, Bibles, Common Prayer Books, an Answer to all Excuses for not Coming to the Sacrament, and the Church of England Man's Companion, which books were to be given to the poorer sort of the said poor of Timberscombe; and when they should have one of each sort of the above-mentioned books, it was his will that the poor people of the adjacent parishes should have one of each sort, in like manner as the people of Timberscombe; and he gave and bequeathed the sum of £200 towards the building of a charity-school-house and library, at the cross of Timberscombe; and he further gave the sum of £200 for buying books for the aforesaid library, which books were to be chosen by the bishop of the diocese, and lent to the neighbouring clergy and others, upon the condition of their giving bond to return them without damage; and he gave the yearly sum of £10, for ever, towards buying books for the library, which were to be chosen by the archdeacon of Taunton; and he also gave the sum of £30 towards the building of a gallery

in Timberscombe Church, for the use of the poor people and their children; and to Baliol College he gave the yearly sum of £40 for two scholars for ever, who were to enjoy £20 each for seven years, and then others to be elected into their room; such scholars to be of the parishes of Timberscombe, Cutcombe, Selworthy, Wootton-Courtenay, Minehead, and Dunster; but if there should be none found of those parishes fit for the university, then two of the county of Somerset, to be chosen by the master and fellows of Baliol College.

The testator charged all his estates in Kent and Sussex, towards the paying and discharging of all his said legacies.

And nominated his two sisters executrixes of his will, and appointed the archdeacon of Taunton, the ministers of the parishes of Timberscombe, Cutcombe, Wootton-Courtenay, and Minehead for the time being, to be trustees of his said charity, in the county of Somerset.

An information was afterward filed in the court of chancery, by His Majesty's Attorney General, for the purpose of establishing the several charities, given by the said testator's will; and divers proceedings were had under the same, by which it appears, that John Wilmot, esq., then one of the masters of the said court, by his report, dated the 7th of May, 1802, made in the said suit, certified, that in pursuance of the several orders therein mentioned, he had taxed the costs of all parties to the said suit, amounting together to the sum

of £599 12s. 4d. which had been retained out of the sum of £1,157 15s. 6d. then in the hands of the defendants, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart. and Henry Fownes Luttrell, esq., the trustees in the said order named; by which the said sum of £1,157 15s. 6d. in their hands, was reduced to the sum of £558 3s. 2d.; and that the said defendants had, on the 11th of August, 1770, paid the said sum of £558 3s. 2d. into the bank, in the name of the accountant-general; and that the same was on the 31st of March, 1795, invested by the said accountant-general in the purchase of £896 12s. 9d. three per cent. bank annuities; and the said master further certified, that subsequent interest on the said sum of £200 given by the said will, to build a charity school and library at the cross of Timberscombe aforesaid, and on the said sum of £200 given towards buying books for the said library, had been computed to the 29th of September, 1768; and that there was then due for interest of the first-mentioned sum of £200 the sum of £120 and for interest of the said second sum of £200 the like sum of £120; and he further certified, that there was due from the late defendant William Withycombe, in respect of the said charitable annuities and legacies therein-mentioned, on the 2nd of May, 1769, several sums, amounting together to the sum of £1,065 8s. 6d. and that the said sum had been paid by the said William Withycombe on the 13th of April, 1796, to the said accountant-general, and had been laid out in the purchase of

£1584 5s. 5d. bank three per cent annuities ; and he further certified, that the said William Withycombe had not properly applied the three sums of £16 15s. for teaching the poor children of Timberscombe, £24 15s. for teaching the poor children of Cutcombe, and £67 due to Baliol College ; and the said master further certified, that he had computed interest on the sum of £609 15s. residue of a sum of £718 5s. stated to be due from the said William Withycombe, to the 20th of June, 1794, and that such interest amounted to £651 14s. 6d. and that the said sum had been paid by the defendant, Withycombe, on the 12th of December, 1796, into the name of the accountant-general, and had been laid out in the purchase of £1,140 17s. 5d. reduced annuities ; and the said master certified, that the said three sums of £896 12s. 9d., £1,482 4s., and £1,584 5s. 5d. bank three per cent. annuities, making together £3,963 2s. 2d. three per cent. bank annuities, and the sum of £1,140 17s. 5d. reduced annuities, together with the sum of £950 14s. 5d. cash in the accountant-general's name, arising from the dividends of the said several annuities, constituted the whole of the charity-fund in question, in the said cause, but which were subject to the payment of the subsequent costs in the said cause ; and the said master further certified, that in pursuance of an order, dated March the 13th, 1770, therein set forth, he had proceeded to consider of a scheme for applying the said residue, and to see which of the charities in question were capable of being carried into

execution; and that he conceived that all the said charities were capable of being carried into execution; but with respect to the bequest in the said will, of £200 towards buying books for the proposed library at the cross, at Timberscombe, he was of opinion it would not be expedient that the said bequest should be carried into effect; and as to the bequest of £10 a year towards teaching the poor children of the parish of Cutcombe to say their catechism, and the bequest of £40 to Baliol College for two poor scholars, he certified that distinct parts of the estate of the said testator, devised by his said will, had been sold, and conveyed to different purchasers, charged with the two said bequests of £10 a year and £40 a year respectively; and the said master further stated, that a scheme and proposal had been laid before him, on the part of the relators in the said suit for applying the residue of the said charity funds, by which it was proposed that the costs of all parties to the said suit subsequent to the last taxation should be paid out of the said sum of £950 14s. 5d. cash in the bank, and that the said sums of £3,963 2s. 2d. three per cent. annuities, and £1,140 17s. 5d. reduced annuities, and also the sum that should remain of the £950 14s. 5d. in cash, after payment of the costs aforesaid, should be transferred by the said accountant-general, into the joint names of Sir Philip Hales, John Fownes Luttrell, John Needham, and Robert Freke Gould, the trustees nominated on the part of the said relators; and that the said several annuities and money

should be held by them, and the survivors of them, and their successors, to be appointed in the manner after-mentioned, upon the trusts following; namely, upon trust, out of the dividends of the said annuities, to pay to the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish of Timberscombe, the sum of £50 yearly, to be applied by them, with the approbation of the said trustees, for the benefit of the poor of the said parish, according to the directions of the said will; namely, £30 part of the said £50 to some proper person, to be appointed by the said trustees, to teach the poor children of the said parish to read, and other necessary education, fit for their station in life; and £20 remainder of the said £50 a year to be laid out by the said churchwardens and overseers in the purchase of clothes for the poorest children of the said parish; and upon further trust, that as the sum of £200 given by the said will, was at that time wholly inadequate to defray the expenses of building a proper school-house, the said trustees should appropriate and set apart the sum of £1,000 annuities, part of the £3,963 2s 2d bank three per cent. annuities; and that at some future time, according to the discretion of the trustees, the said £1,000 annuities should be sold; and that the monies arising from the sale thereof, and the dividends which should then have accrued thereon, and the accumulation of such dividends, if the same should have been re-invested, or a sufficient part thereof, at the discretion of the trustees, should be applied by them in and to:

wards erecting a proper charity school house, at the Cross at Timberscombe aforesaid; and that the said trustees should, out of the remainder of the said £3,968 2s. 2d. three per cent annuities, raise a further sum of £60 and apply the same in or towards the repairs of the church of Timberscombe; and also a further sum of £60 in or towards the building a gallery in the church of Timberscombe aforesaid, for the use of the poor people and their children; and that it was further proposed that the dividends of the bank annuities which should remain, after such several payments and applications, should from time to time be applied towards defraying incidental expenses, and after defraying the same in such manner as to them the said trustees should seem meet, for the better promoting the benevolent intentions of the said testator; and that it was further proposed, that the trustees should appoint a proper person, who should keep a regular account of all receipts, payments, and transactions, respecting the said trust funds; and that the said trustees should within one month next after the 31st of December in every year, balance the said account; and that the said account, signed by the trustees, should be delivered to one of the churchwardens of the parish of Timberscombe; and that upon the death of any of the trustees, the survivors should, within three months next afterward, appoint a meeting of the archdeacon of Taunton, and the ministers for the time being, of the several parishes of Timbersecombe, Catcombe, and

Wootton-Courtenay, for them, or the major part of them, to choose and elect a new trustee ; and that the said trust funds should be transferred into the joint names of the surviving and new trustees, and so in like manner for ever ; and the said master certified, that he approved of the said scheme and proposal, and that he had taxed the subsequent costs of all parties, amounting in the whole to £478 16s. 9d.

The said report was confirmed by an order of the said court, dated the 11th of August, 1802, and the costs were paid by the accountant-general, out of the said cash in the bank.

John Springet Harvey, esq. one of the masters of the said court, who succeeded the said master Wilmot, by his report, dated the 27th of March, 1804, and made pursuant to the order therein referred to, stated that he had received the report of his predecessor, Master Wilmot, dated 7th of May, 1802, whereby he had, amongst other things, approved a scheme which had been laid before him, for applying the residue of the charity funds in question as above-mentioned ; and that it appeared to him, the said Master Harvey, that in the said scheme, it had been proposed to the said Master Wilmot, that the additional sum of £10 a year should be paid out of the said charity funds to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the said parish of Cutcombe, to be paid by them to some proper person, to be appointed by the said trustees, to teach the poor children of the said parish to read, and

other necessary instruction; fit for their station ; that the said Master Wilmot had approved of the said proposal ; that the same was intended to have been inserted in his said report, but had been omitted through mistake ; and that he the said Master Harvey, was of opinion that it was proper that the said additional sum of £10 should be paid to the said churchwardens and overseers of Cutcombe, to be applied in the manner before-mentioned.

This report was confirmed by an order of the said court, dated 17th April, 1804.

By a deed roll, dated 21st of September, 1804, made by the said Sir Philip Hales, J. F. Luttrell, John Needham, and the Rev. R. F. Gould, the trustees of the said charity, nominated as therein-mentioned, reciting the will of the testator, and the several orders and proceedings of the court of chancery, herein-before set forth ; and also reciting, that the said accountant-general, in pursuance of another order, dated the 11th of August, 1802, had transferred the said sums of £3,693 2s. 2d. bank three per cent. annuities, and £1,140 17s. 5d. bank three per cent. reduced annuities, to the said Sir Philip Hales, J. F. Luttrell, John Needham, and Robert F. Gould, and had paid them the sum of £531 6s. 7d. residue of the cash then in his hands ; and that the said trustees had laid out and invested the said sum of £531 6s. 7d. in the purchase of £790 1s. 6d. bank three per cent. annuities ; and that the said several sums of £3,963 2s. 2d,

£1,140 17s. 5d. and £790 1s. 6d. three per cent. annuities were then standing in their names, which they did thereby acknowledge; it is witnessed that they the said Sir Philip Hales, J. F. Luttrell, John Needham, and R. F. Gould, did, in obedience to the said orders, declare that they and the survivors and survivor of them should from thenceforth stand possessed of the said several sums so transferred and paid to them, and then standing in their names as aforesaid, upon the trusts, and for the purposes expressed and declared in the said several reports herein-before set forth.

Upon the same day on which the above-mentioned deed-roll was executed, three of the said trustees met, and at such meeting, after entering in their minute book, their execution of such deed of trust, appointed Mr. Francis Bastone, of Minehead, secretary to the said trustees. And the said trustees came to a resolution also entered in the said book, to erect a school house within the parish of Timberscombe, and directed their said secretary to advertise for tenders for the undertaking; and also for a proper person to fill the situation of school-master of the said school, at Timberscombe; and some time afterward, Mr. William Curle was appointed school-master thereof, at a salary of £50 per annum, subject to a deduction of £2 per annum for land tax, and upon condition that he should provide pens, and paper, and books, for the use of the said school. And the said trustees also directed, that

William Langdon, the then school-master of the school at Cutcombe, should be continued at an increased salary of £25, he providing pens, ink, paper, and books, for the use of the said school, and subject also to a deduction of £2 per annum for the land tax ; and they also ordered, that £20 per annum should be paid to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Timberscombe, to be laid out by them for clothing poor persons of the said parish, and that the sum of £60 should be paid to the churchwardens of Timberscombe for erecting a gallery in the parish church of Timberscombe, pursuant to the aforesaid decree.

The accounts of the trustees appear to have been regularly kept, from the 5th of January, 1803, to the present time, and the minutes of all their proceedings for carrying the charity into effect, and advancing its general objects are regularly entered in the book before-mentioned.

Upon the last account, audited in the year 1824, the balance due from the secretary was £167 5s. 1½d. and on the 6th of January, 1825, an order was made by the trustees for the erection of a school-room in the parish of Cutcombe, out of the said balance, which has since been done at an expence of £95 or thereabouts.

From fifty to sixty boys and girls, are taught at the school at Timberscombe, being children of the parishioners, who are appointed by the trustees. They learn reading, writing, arithmetic, and the catechism of the

Church of England. The girls are also taught needle work. The school is conducted upon Bell's Madras system.

The sum of £10 a year, directed to be paid to the parish of Cutcombe, for teaching children, is paid by Mr. Nathaniel Merchant, the owner of an estate at Timberscombe, who purchased part of the property at Timberscombe, originally belonging to the testator, and which, as stated in the master's report, before-mentioned, was sold subject to this annuity.

The annuity of £40, payable by the said testator's will to Baliol College, is paid out of lands at Timberscombe, the other part of the testator's estate there.

POOR'S MONEY

Under the head of poor's money, a sum of £2 3s. 6d. used formerly to be paid out of the poor's rates, to the second poor of the parish, but no trace appears of the source from whence this money was derived. The principal sum seems to have been lent on private securities, and interest is stated to have been received from particular persons, named in the parish books; but the parish is said afterward to have called in this money, and to have laid it out for some general parish purposes. For some time after such expenditure, the interest of the above sum was continued to be paid out of the poor rates, till this payment being strongly opposed by the persons paying to the poor rates of the parish, the same was in or about the year 1810, discontinued.

POOR'S LANDS.

There is a meadow in the parish of Winsford, in this county, belonging to the poor of the parish of Timberscombe, called Higher Combe, containing seven acres, or thereabouts; but how the parish became entitled to this land, is entirely unknown. The parish has been in possession of it from time immemorial.

The parish officers let this land generally for short terms of years, and distribute the rents received therefrom among the poor, not receiving parish relief. It is now let by auction for £10 a year.

The distribution is made soon after the rent is received, and the number of persons receiving it last year, (1827) amounted to thirty-three.

King William the Conqueror gave the manor of Timberscombe to Roger Arundel, and in Domesday Book it is thus described:—

“ Drogo holds of Roger [Arundel] TIMBRECUMBE. Aluerd held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one hide and a half. The arable land is sufficient for eight ploughs. There is in the demesne one plough. There are eleven acres of meadow, one hundred and fifty of pasture, and sixty-one of wood. It was worth when Roger Arundel received it one hundred shillings; now it is worth forty shillings.”⁹⁰

⁹⁰ Excheq. D. vol. I.

" To this manor is added one ferling. Algar held it in the time of King Edward. The arable land is sufficient for one plough. There is there half a plough and two bordars ; eight acres of pasture and four acres of wood. It is worth five shillings."⁶⁰

In the Exeter Domesday it is said that Drogo has here three virgates and one plough in the demesne, and the villan tenants three virgates and one plough. Drogo has in this manor thirty sheep and ten goats.⁶¹

This Roger Arundel was one of the followers of William, Duke of Normandy, in his expedition to England. He is put down in Domesday Book as possessing twenty-eight manors in Somersetshire, and twelve in Dorsetshire. One of both his names occurs as a witness to many charters of religious houses in Yorkshire, and he was also a benefactor to the Hospitalers in London.⁶²

The manors which Roger Arundel⁶³ held in the county of Somerset, as entered in Domesday Book, were

⁶⁰ Excheq. D. vol. i.

⁶¹ Exon. D. fo. 412.

⁶² Mon. Angl. vol. ii. p. 510, 799, 808.

⁶³ In the History of Taunton, the author, relying on the authority of Colinson (Hist. of Som. vol. ii. p. 497) asserted that this Roger de Arundel was the third son of Roger de Montgomery, upon whom the Conqueror bestowed the earldoms of Arundel and Shrewsbury, and that he was better known by the name of Roger de Poitou, or Pictavensis. This was an error which the reader will please to correct by erasing the two paragraphs in that history, in the notes to page 76, beginning " This Roger de Arundel," and ending " In Domesday Book."

Halse, Huish-Episcopi, White Lackington, Durston, Sampford, (still called Sampford-Arundel) Perry, Newton, Fiddington, Tuxwell, Cudworth, Skilgate, Middleton near Clatworthy, Raddington, Timberscombe, Kittesford, Sydenham, Halsewell, Cary, Charlton, Ash (Priors) Up-Cheddon, Cheddon (Fitzpaine) Sutton, Beckington, Berkeley, Marston-Bigot, Penne, and (Eslide) Gurney-Slade.

Roger Arundel had issue two sons, Gilbert, the elder, from whom descends, in a direct line, the present Lord Arundel of Wardour, and Robert, his second son, who in the time of King Stephen, on the collection of Dane-geld, paid fifty-eight shillings for the lands he held in the counties of Dorset and Wilts. He had by the gift of his father the manor of Ash, now Ash-Priors, (misprinted *Dissam*, for *Aissam*, in the Monasticon) which he conferred upon the priory of Taunton.

It is presumed that this is the same Robert Arundel, who with Roger his son, is mentioned in the Monasticon, vol. ii. p. 510, as giving, some time between 1199 and 1202, the manor of Halsham, in Yorkshire, to the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

It is probable that the only daughter and heiress of the last mentioned Roger Arundel, was the wife of Gerbert or Gilbert de Percy, a great baron living in the reign of Henry II. This Gerbert de Percy, in the twelfth year of that king (1166) on the payment of the aid for marrying the king's eldest daughter, certi-

fied his knight's fees to be thirty of the old feoffment and one of the new. His posterity possessed considerable property in the southern counties for many ages, and is hardly yet extinct in Dorsetshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Devonshire. They were a distinct family from that of the Lords Percy of Yorkshire and Northumberland.

It would seem, from the barony of Arundel being divided into moieties after the death of this Gerbert de Percy, that he left two daughters his coheiresses, and that the elder of them married into the family of Mandeville, which thence became Barons Mandeville, of Marshwood, in the county of Dorset; and the younger into the family of Fitzpaine, the descendants of whom thence became barons of the realm, by the title of Lords Fitzpaine.

In the Testa de Nevill,⁶⁴ it is said that Adam Wecheford, Geoffrey de Kentenore, Robert de Vigne, and Richard de Ludeham, hold one knight's fee in Timberscombe.⁶⁵

We find, by the inquisitions in the eighth of Edward IV. that John Sydenham died seized of Timberscombe in that year, which he held of Sir William Herbert, knt. as of his barony of Dunster, by fealty and the rent of two shillings; leaving Walter Sydenham his son and heir.

In the seventeenth of Edward IV. Margaret, the wife of William Multon, formerly the wife of John

⁶⁴ p. 415.

⁶⁵ About nineteenth Hen. III.

Sydenham, held the manor of Timberscombe as of the barony of Dunster.⁶⁶

In the seventh of Henry VI. Simon Ralegh, Robert Bykcombe, Walter Pauncefoot, William Cloutsham, and Thomas Bratton, held separately half a knight's fee in Timberscombe, which John le Tort and the heirs of Edon de Dammeston formerly held there.

The prior of Dunster received out of this manor an annual pension of ten shillings.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, there were some proceedings in the Court of Chancery, in which John Downe, and Catherine his wife, were plaintiffs; and John Keper and Thomas Green, defendants; relating to a capital messuage called Bougham, and land thereto belonging, in the parish of Timberscombe, formerly belonging to Thomas Elsworthe.

In the same reign there was a suit in Chancery, between the eldest branch of the Trevelyan family and a younger branch of the same, respecting lands in this parish, in that of Carhampton, and in other parishes, which terminated in favour of the younger branch. At that time Richard Elsworth was lessee of the defendants.⁶⁷

BICCOMBE.

About half a mile westward from the church lies the hamlet of Biccombe, containing only one house,

⁶⁶ Inq. p. m. seventeenth Edward IV. No. 36.—Cal. vol. iv. p. 384.

⁶⁷ *Flowden's Reports*, vol. ii. p. 504.

and so called from being a building or habitation in a valley ; more properly a building erected for the preservation of grain. Bick, bike, or byke, is derived from the Sui-Gothic *bygg-a*, to build ; and in the Islandic, *bigd* is the same as the latin *habitatio*, a dwelling-place.

In Domesday Book the manor of Biccombe is thus described :—

“ Richard holds of William [de Mohun] BICHECOME. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for one virgate of land. The arable land is sufficient for two ploughs. There is in the demesne one plough. Three villans and six bordars have half a plough. There are three acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture. It was formerly worth six shillings ; but now fifteen shillings.”⁶⁸

In the Exeter Domesday it is said that the two thanes held BICHECOME in equal portions (*in pariter*.) Richard has there half a virgate in the demesne, and the villans hold the other half virgate.”⁶⁹

Biccombe was one of the manors which were anciently holden of the castle of Dunster. At an early period we find a family here that had assumed the local surname.

In the fourteenth of Edward I. Robert de Bykombe held one knight's fee in Biccombe of John de

⁶⁸ Excheq. D. vol. i.

⁶⁹ Exon. D. fo. 337. 474.

Mohun, lord of Dunster, which appears to have continued in this family for many generations.

In the reign of Edward III. this family greatly increased their landed possessions, by the marriage of John de Biccombe with Isolda, daughter and heiress of Simon de Crocombe. In the twenty-seventh year of that king's reign this John de Biccombe held his first court for the moiety of the manor of Crocombe, which from him was called Crocombe-Biccombe, the prioress of Studley holding the other moiety. He was also lord of the manor of Broomfield, in right of his wife, and was succeeded by

Richard, his son and heir, and he by another Richard, who, by Margaret his wife, had issue

Hugh de Biccombe, who died in the thirty-eighth of Henry VI. seized of a moiety of the manor of Crocombe; of the manor of Broomfield; sixty acres of land and one acre of meadow in Grerelys-hays; one messuage, eighteen acres of land, one acre of meadow and half an acre of woodland, in West Lynch; four messuages, one hundred acres of land, four acres of meadow and four acres of woodland in Timberscombe and Biccombe, and one burgage in Dunster; leaving Robert his son and heir.⁷⁰

Which Robert, in the sixth of Henry VIII. made a grant of his moiety of the church house at Crocombe, the prioress of Studley, who held the other moiety,

⁷⁰ Inq. p. m. 38 and 39 Hen. VI. No. 44.—Calender, vol. iv. p. 287.

at the same time giving up her right, towards the repairs of the parish church of Crocombe. He died in the fifteenth of Henry VIII. leaving issue, by Imayn his wife, daughter of Patrick Mathue, Richard his son and heir,

Which Richard, by Joan his wife, had issue

Hugh, who, by Elizabeth his wife, had two daughters, his coheiresses, upon the first of whom, in the third and fourth of Philip and Mary, he settled the manor of Crocombe-Biccombe, on her marriage with Thomas Carew, esq. of Camerton, since which time the said manor of Crocombe-Biccombe has uninterruptedly continued in the Carew family, and is now (1829) the property of George Henry Warrington Carew, esq. of Crocombe-Court. Maud, the second daughter, married Hugh Smyth, of Long-Ashton, in this county, esq. and took with her the manor of Broomfield.

In the fourth of Edward III. on the death of John de Mohun, Robert de Biccombe was found to hold four oxgangs of land as of the castle of Dunster, by the service of the third part of a knight's fee.⁷¹

In the twentieth of Richard II. Robert de Bycombe held one knight's fee in Broomfield *juxta* Quantock, of William de Montacute, earl of Salisbury, as of his manor of Shepton-Montacute.⁷²

In 1791, Biccombe was the seat of William Withycombe, esq.

⁷¹ Inq. p. m. fourth Edward III. ⁷² Inq. p. m. twentieth Richard II. No. 35.

Among the records of Dunster Castle there are the following notices relating to the family of Biccombe :—

A grant of James Luttrell to John Sydenham, of the custody of Hugh Biccombe, of his lands in the parish of Timberscombe, and of the body and marriage of Robert Biccombe, his son and heir, and so from heir to heir, till they shall attain the full age.⁷³

A grant of Andrew Luttrell, esq. (for £20 received) to Jane Biccombe, of the custody, wardship, and marriage of Hugh Biccombe, her son, and of his lands in Broomfield, Timberscombe, Allerford, Lynch, Dunster, and Trulhayes, holden of him by knight's service.⁷⁴

“ Amongst Mr. Needham's records is one indorsed “ Ptnit hic carta ad le Will ground Tymbcombe, 25^o Maii, 31st Hen. VI. 1453.” “ A demise from the ancestors of Sydenham, of the Will ground, dated anno 35th Hen. VI. Tymbcomb.”

“ Michas. 37th and 38th Eliz. Wm. Wittinge's recovery of the manors of Timberscombe, Selworthy, Wootton-Courtenay, and Mynhed, 1597.”

“ Michas. 39th Eliz. Indres. of fine between John Trevelyan, esq. plt. and Maurice Hill, and Margaret his wife, defnds. of the manor of Timberscombe; 20s. rent, and common of pasture for all manner of cattle in Timberscombe, also Imbercombe, Bickham, Westerlinche, Selworthy, Carhampton, and Cutcombe,

⁷³ 8th June, thirty-eighth Henry VI.

⁷⁴ 14th April, fifteenth Henry VIII.

combe." "The manor of Well of feoffment unto Sir Richard Hill, 9th 7ber. 44th Eliz. from Conande Prowse." "45th Eliz. exemplification of a fine between John Trevelyan, esq., plt. Maurice Hill and Margaret his wife, defs. of the manor of Timberscombe, and other lands in Soms."⁷⁵

Wm. Withycombe, esq. who died in 1796, gave this manor to the late J. Needham, esq. who left it to his son, the present proprietor, John Needham, esq.

⁷⁵ "Prowse, his recoll. of Well and Tymberscombe, 1st James."

MINEHEAD.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—VICARAGE.—CHURCH.—STATISTICS.—RATES
AND TAXES.—POPULATION.—BOROUGH.—LIST OF MEMBERS RE-
TURNED TO PARLIAMENT.—CHARITIES.—HARBOUR.—QUAY.—
TRADE.—HAMLETS.—MEMOIRS OF HENRY DE BRACON—REV.
WILLIAM GILBERT—REV. WILLIAM FITZJAMES—SIR JACOB
BANCKS—DR. BROCKLESBY.

THE parish of Minehead lies along the southern shore of the Bristol Channel, by which it is bounded on the north; as it is by the parish of Dunster on the east; by the same parish, and those of Carhampton, Timberscombe, and Wootton-Courtenay, on the south; and Selworthy, and a detached part of Timberscombe, on the west. From a recent survey this parish was found to contain about three thousand five hundred acres; of which one thousand six hundred and forty-seven are commons. The principal part of the cultivated lands lie in the valley, between the hills called Grabhurst and Greenaleigh. On the southern side of the latter, the lands are generally good; the soil is mostly stone rush. Sheltered from the north, open to the south, and the air rendered salubrious by the sea breezes, the winters are mild, and vegetation earlier here than in England generally. Geraniums have been

known to live unsheltered through a mild winter, and myrtles of every kind grow here in the open air, and require to be well pruned or they would get large and rude.

The town of Minehead, which stands on the southern slope and at the foot of Greenaleigh Hill, is a sea-port, borough, post, and market-town. It is divided into three parts, called the Quay Town, the Lower Town, and the Upper or Church Town; forming an equilateral triangle, whose sides are each about half a mile in length. The first is the port, and consists of one long street, running by the side of the harbour and sea, at the foot of the cliff, on the north side of the hill that forms the western point of the bay of Blue Anchor, and which rises behind it, almost perpendicularly, to the height of six or seven hundred feet, with its sides seared with wild rocks and overgrown with shrubs, which seem to a stranger, threatening to fall on the houses below, and involve them and their inhabitants in one common ruin; no such calamity, however, is feared by the natives, for the appearance of the cliff has been the same for ages, and neither tradition nor record mention any serious fall to have taken place. The quay runs out from near the north-western end of this street, is about a quarter of a mile in length, and in shape a curve of about ninety degrees; it is a solid piece of masonry, with a parapet towards the sea; a convenient custom-house stands at the entrance. It is by far the best and safest harbour on this side the channel.

The high bold coast, which stretches away so far in the west, begins here. The hill nearest to the point is eight hundred and six, and the next eight hundred and sixty-four feet above the level of the sea. The Lower Town is about half a mile from the beach, and consists of six streets, called Bampton Street, Friday Street, Frog Street, Middle Street, the Butts, and the Parade; in a line with the houses on the latter, an elegant new market-house has been lately built. In this part of the town are the best houses, the most respectable shops, and the two principal inns,—the Plume of Feathers, and the Wellington: from the former a coach runs to Bridgwater three days a week, and returns on the alternate days: from the latter a mail coach has lately commenced running to and from Taunton every day. It is a great accommodation to the inhabitants of Minehead and Taunton, as well as to those who live in the neighbourhood of the road on which it passes.

The Upper or Church Town, so called from the church standing there, is on the side of the hill, but has, by fire and dilapidation, sunk to little more than a few straggling houses, the principal collection of which is called Parsons Street; the street called New Street was burnt down about fifteen years since, and has not been rebuilt. Minehead has suffered much from fires.

In this parish are four hamlets, namely, Bratton, Periton, Hendon, and Woodcombe. The first is about

a mile west of the Lower Town; here is a part of an old English timbered house, once in the form of a quadrangle, with its principal windows looking into a court which it inclosed; that celebrated lawyer Henry de Bracton was born here, many generations of whose family resided in this place; over the principal gateway which remains is a room called the "Judge's Chamber," which tradition says was once Bracton's study; part of this house is now modernized, and is the residence of Francis Pearse, esq. the much-respected agent of Lord King in Somersetshire. Periton is about a mile south-west from Minehead Lower Town, on the road to Porlock; here is a Baptist chapel at which the Rev. J. Cocks is the officiating minister. Hindon is about half a mile west of Bratton; and Woodcombe lies under the hill, on the left going from the latter place to Minehead; it contains twenty-two houses, most of which were built by the late Mr. Langston, of Sarsdon, in Oxfordshire, while he represented this borough in parliament. It was then called Langston's Town, but after that gentleman sold this and all his other property here to Mr. Luttrell, it was new-named Botany Bay, an appellation it has not yet entirely lost.

The borough extends over all the parish, and includes the manors of Alcombe and Staunton, in Dunster; every householder, not receiving parochial relief, is entitled to vote; it was at one time a kind of open borough, but even then the Luttrell family were generally able to return one, if not both, members. It may

now certainly be called a close borough, belonging to the owner of Dunster Castle. The last contested election that succeeded against the Luttrell interest was in 1796; it originated with Mr. William Davis, a member of the Society of Friends, whose ancestors had long resided here as merchants, and it was principally through his exertions that Mr. Langston was returned with Mr. Luttrell. During the six years that the former gentleman represented Minehead in parliament, he endeavoured by acts of kindness to the inhabitants, by building upwards of forty houses, and a vessel called after his own name, and by promoting its local trade, to secure a permanent interest in it, but he did not succeed, for after expending a considerable sum of money on the place and its inhabitants, he lost his election in 1802. That Mr. Langston was treated with base ingratitude by many is certain; we shall give one instance. An elector being in prison for debt, Mr. Langston paid what the man owed and procured his release; yet immediately on his return to Minehead he voted for Mr. Luttrell. Mr. Langston having sold Mr. Luttrell all his property in the borough, the shadow of a contested election has never since appeared in Minehead, very much to the peace and quiet of the place and its neighbourhood.

A small stream rising on Bratton Hill, turns a mill in that village, and another in the Lower Town, a little below which it falls into the channel; trout and eels are found in it. On the north-side of Greenaleigh is a

farm, called Greenaleigh Farm, which is deprived of the sun's rays three months in the year by the shadow of the hill. Further westward on the hills, are two other farms, called East and West Myne, near which are Myne rocks, a well-known retreat for the foxes of the neighbourhood when pursued by hunters; these tremendous cliffs once reached the terrified animal is safe. In a deep glen, on the north-side of the hill, between Myne rocks and Greenaleigh, are the ruins of what tradition says was once a chapel, called Burgundy Chapel, probably the ancient retreat of some recluse.

There are no lime rocks worked in this parish, but great quantities of lime-stones are brought from Wales and here burnt into lime of the best quality for agricultural purposes, which is not only used in the neighbourhood but carried a great way into the interior, to places where lime is scarce.

A singular custom, called "Hobby-horsing," prevails here on every first day of May. A number of young men, mostly fishermen and sailors, having previously made some grotesque figures of light stuff, rudely resembling men, and horses with long tails, sufficiently large to cover and disguise the persons who are to carry them, assemble together and perambulate the town and neighbourhood, performing a variety of antics, to the great amusement of the children and young persons; they never fail to pay a visit to Dunster Castle, where, after having been hospitably regaled with strong beer and victuals, they always receive a present in

money ; many other persons, inhabitants of the places they visit, give them small sums, and such persons as they meet are also asked to contribute a trifle ; if they are refused, the person of the refuser is subjected to the ceremony of booting or pursing ; this is done by some of the attendants holding his person while one of the figures inflict ten slight blows on him with the top of a boot, he is then liberated and all parties give three huzzas : the most trifling sum buys off this ceremony, and it is seldom or never performed but on those who purposely throw themselves in their way and join the party, or obstruct them in their vagaries. This custom has prevailed for ages, but what gave rise to it is at present unknown ; it probably owes its origin to some ancient custom of perambulating the boundaries of the parish.

To a certain class who wish to visit the sea-side, Minehead offers many advantages ; lodgings are low, provisions are good and cheap ; there is a fine sandy beach, and they will not be annoyed by the company of the frivolous part of the fashionable world, of whom so many are to be found in some of our watering-places at particular seasons of the year.

The principal proprietors of freeholds here are J. F. Luttrell, esq. Sir T. D. Acland, bart. and Lord King.

The living of Minehead is a vicarage in the deanery of Dunster, and was rated in 1291 at ten marks. It is valued in the king's books at £18 9s. 6½d. In 1700,

Jane Cave, widow, presented to this living, and in 1763, and 1780, Henry Fownes Luttrell, esq. in whose descendants the patronage now is, as lords of the manor of Minehead. This church and benefice had been bestowed by the Mohuns on the monastery founded by them at Brewton. In the Survey of the possessions of that monastery made in 1535, the parsonages of Minehead and Cutcombe are entered together, and the reader will find the particulars under the last mentioned parish. In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* there is the following account of this vicarage:—

1535. John Rychards, Vicar.

Annual value of the demesne, or glebe

lands	3	0	0
-----------------	---	---	---

Personal tithes and other casualties. .	15	19	3
---	----	----	---

	£18	19	3
--	-----	----	---

Out of which there is paid

To the bishop of Bath

for procurations . . .	0	2	3
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To the archdeacon of

Taunton for Synodals	0	7	5½	—	0	9	8½
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Clear.	£18	9	6½
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Tenths.	1	16	11½
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The present annual value of the living is about £350; there is a good glebe belonging to it and a new vicarage house. The great tithes belong to the lord of the manor.

VICARS OF MINEHEAD.

- 1621. Nicholas Browne.
 - 1635. Robert Knowles; he was ejected.
 - 1665. Samuel Hooke.
 - 1689. Samuel Bengor.
 - 1710. William Moggridge.
 - 1764. Levi Herring.
 - 1776. Peter Woodley.
 - 1781. Alexander F. Luttrell.
 - 1816. George Henry Leigh.
 - 1829. Thomas F. Luttrell.
-

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael, (on the south-side of the tower, in a niche, is a statue of that saint) stands in the Upper Town, and is a large, handsome structure, one hundred and sixteen feet long, and forty-two feet wide, consisting of a nave, chancel, north-aisle, and vestry-room. A well-built embattled tower at the west end, ninety feet in height, contains a clock, chimes, and five bells.

The aisle is divided from the other parts of the church by eight arches; under the most easterly one is the supposed monument of Henry de Bracton, the celebrated lawyer. These arches having fallen several degrees out of their perpendicular, they are supported from the north wall by wooden frame work. Three different king's arms are put up in this church, viz. one in the aisle belonging to Charles II. another in the nave of

the date of 1704; the third, which is placed against the foot of the gallery, is dated in 1743. The font appears to be very ancient; the pedestal has eight niches, in each of which is a small statue, and round the outside of the bason are seven figures, apparently supporting it with their backs. In the chancel, chained to a reading desk, fixed against Bracton's monument, are some books of divinity; among them is a black-letter bible, printed in 1639, and an early edition of Bishop Jewel's sermons. The alleged monument of Bracton is ornamented with gothic niches, and his effigy is robed; he has in his hand what appears, from the bottom which remains, to have been a chalice. The late Dr. Ball, of Minehead, opened this monument, and found in it a human skull, with two perfect rows of upper teeth one within the other.

Within an iron railing at the east end of the north-aile, there is an elegant statue of Queen ANNE, in white alabaster, on a pedestal four feet high, holding the globe and sceptre. On the pedestal is this inscription:—

“This statue was given by Sir Jacob Banks, and erected in 1719. He represented this borough in parliament 16 years, and during this time was a benefactor to it on all occasions.”

On a black frame in the aile, there is the following memorial:—

“Near this place lie the bodies of five children of the late Rev. Mr. William Moggridge, who was vicar of Minehead fifty-three years, and rector of Porlock

twenty-nine years. He died March 5, 1763, in the 82d year of his age, and was buried in Porlock Church."

And on another:—Francis Bastone, merchant, dyed Sept. 12, 1730, aged 42. Elizabeth, his widow, died Feb. 17, 1767, aged 77.

On a flat stone in the chancel floor:—

"Here resteth the body of James Quircke, mariner, who deceased Feb. 20, 1613, who purchased the fee-farme of the moytee of this rectori."

"Here resteth the bodye of Robert Quirck, mariner, the son of James Quircke; he dyed the 18th of March, 1649."

"Here lyeth the body of Robert Quirck, son of John Quirck of Hindon, who departed this life the 1st of April, 1712, aged 19 years."

On a brass plate:—Here lyeth the body of John Quirck, of Hindon, who departed this life Aug. 10, 1697, aged 44. Also of John Quirck, his son, who departed this life Dec. 13, 1730, aged 32."

On another brass plate:—"Here lyeth the body of James Quirck, of this parish, mariner, who departed this life April 4th, 1711, aged 53 years.—Here also lyeth the body of Isott his wife, who departed this life Nov. 7, 1724, aged 58."

Before the rails in the chancel is a flat stone, on which is the figure of a woman, in brass, with a brass moulding about an inch and half wide, let into the stone, on which was an inscription; part of the moulding is lost, and the inscription which is in black letter

is imperfect. Outside the moulding the following is cut in this stone:—"Here lyeth the body of James Quircke, of this town, who was buried the 16th day of Feb. 1653. And here lyeth the body of John Quircke, son of James Quircke, and Alice his wife, who was buried the 23d day of March, 1664." And also "Here lyeth the body of Alice Quircke, wife of James Quircke, who was buried the 16th day of April, 1700, aged 75 years and 8 months."

In the nave on a flat stone:—"Here lyeth the body of Hannah, the late wife of John Hayman, of Youghall, merchant, who departed this life y^e 25 of Dec. 1688." And "Mary Brook died 26 Sept. 1746, aged 64 years." And "Isott Quirck died April 3rd, 1768, aged 90 years." And "Mary, the wife of George Chapman, who died May 19, 1785, aged 70 years." And "Near this place lies the remains of George Chapman, who died May 11, 1790, aged 60 years."

On a brass plate in the chancel-floor, within the rails:—"Here lyeth the body of Charles Knowles, vicar, who died the 17th day of May, 1731, aged 37 years."

And outside the rails, by the Bracton monument, is a flat stone, on which is the following:—"Here lies the body of Thomas Furgers, who departed this life the 17th October, 1677. Ann his wife, was buried the 7th of June, 1707, aged near 90 years. Ann their daughter, and the dearly-beloved wife of William Blake, esq. was buried Nov. 26, 1722, aged almost 68, and under this stone lieth 8 of their children."

In the vestry room, on a stone :—" Here lyeth the body of Alice, the wife of Thomas Henly, of this town, gent. who died the 14 of June, 1674 ; also the body of Thomas Henly, the husband, who died 19 March, 1700."

In the middle of the church-yard, which is walled-in, and in which are many lime trees, there is an ancient stone cross, nearly entire, with four rows of steps ; and among many other monuments is a handsome table one, railed in, bearing the following inscription :—" Sacred to the memory of Major General George Dyer, of the royal marines, who departed this life the 13 June, 1817, aged 58. Highly gifted by nature, all the faculties of his ardent mind were exercised in virtue. Pious as a Christian ; as a soldier and subject most zealous and loyal ; with a heart full of kind affections. Religion was his guide through life, and charmed him by her promises in death. This simple tribute of affection is erected by his affectionate widow."

The register begins in 1548 ; it records the following events :—

In 1550 the plague was here ; no one was buried from April till October, in which month fifty persons were interred, and twenty-one more in the following month.

In 1607, it says in this year was the great frost.

In 1645, the plague was here again, and about five times the average number of burials took place. It

was here again in 1654, and then about the same number of deaths occurred.

Mrs. Aletheia Brough, a stranger, dying on her passage from Ireland, in a ship belonging to Bristol; James Frogo; master, was buried July 1, 1670.

John Evans, a soldier and very old man, brought to this town by pass from tithing to tithing, dying in the stock-house, was buried Nov. 8th, 1681.

Catharine Ratcliff, a poor Welchwoman, drowned at the quay, was buried in 1682. And C. Osborne, a gentleman and stranger, bound to Ireland, was buried the same year.

John Sheppard, a poor man, dying in the stock-house, was buried in Oct. 1684.

On Feb. 22nd, thirty-five men, women, and children were buried in one grave, and the next day seven men and women and one child in another; they had been wrecked in a ship on the coast.

On the 13 July, 1758, died Christopher Jones, who was born without arms, in all other respects perfect.

The following entries are copied from a church book now in private hands:—

1645. Given the ringers in beer at severall	
times when the prince and other	
great men came to the town.....	00 14 00
Paid the prince's footman which he claymed	
as due to him to his fee..	00 05 06

Paid the ringers when Bristol was taken and delivered up by Prince Rupert..	00 03 00
Paid the day of thanksgiving	00 02 06
1646. Paid for cut of the printed copy of the covenant to write it out by. . . .	00 01 00
1648. For ringinge the bells on surrender of Colchester to the parliament. . . .	00 04 00
1649. Paid ringers for ringing for joy of the overthrow against Dublin, by Jones or marquis of Ormond	00 04 00
Paid the ringers the 5 of November, 1650	00 04 00
1650. Paid towards Capt. Bryant and En- signe Bowers charges in their journey to Somerton, about settlinge the rate for this hundred	00 15 00
June 1st, 1651. Paid for ringinge at the taking of Scilly by Mr. George Ann from Sir Wm. Greenvil	00 06 00
1656. Paid the ringers for ringing 5th Nov. and for overthrow of the Spaniards.	00 12 00
Paid Thos. Furgers for a dinner for 14 ministers that settled a lecture in this townè, and sev' others of the towne, and parishioners, and for a sup' for some of the ministers that dwelt far off	02 12 04
1657. Sept. 8. Gave a poor man in dis- tress having my Lord Protector's hand to his passe to goe for Ireland .	0 2 0

1658. For protestants abroad, sent to Sheriff —			
Paid for ringing on Wednesdays at	0	04	0
1646. Given the ringers when Dunster Castle was yielded up	0	04	8
1645. Lost of the church stocke beinge plundered when Lord Goringe was heere	1	0	6
1660. Charges for replacing king's arms			
1641. More that was given by the souldiers	} Poor Box.	0	17 6
More given by Mr. Jephson			
and Hoopers		1	1 4

In 1776, the money expended in the parish of Minehead on account of the poor, was £246 3s. 2d.; in 1783, £396; and in 1785, £282 19s. 1d. In 1776, there was a work-house here, which would accommodate sixty persons.

In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates was £674 5s. 6d. at 7s. in the pound.

In 1814, the estimated annual value of the real property in this parish, including part of the hamlet of Yearnor, as assessed to the property tax, was £4413, namely, in Minehead, £4042, and in part of Yearnor, £371. In 1818, the county rate for Minehead was £4 4s. 2½d.; and for part of Yearnor, 7s. 8½d.

In the parochial returns relating to the education of the poor, made to the House of Commons in 1818, the

Rev. John Southcombe, the minister, states that there is no endowed school in this parish, but that there is a free school supported by J. F. Luttrell, esq. containing twenty children; and a Sunday School supported by private subscription, in which fifty are instructed; besides several day schools, attended by about one hundred children. The poorer classes are totally unable of themselves to educate their children, but are desirous of having them instructed.

In 1815, there were eighty-nine poor here.

POPULATION.

From two surveys, made in the years 1705 and 1783, of the number of houses and inhabitants within this town, it appears that a great declension had taken place in the space of about eighty years.

	1705.		1783.	
	Houses.	Inhabitants.	Houses.	Inhabitants.
Higher Town..	124	638	98	382
Lower Town ..	130	710	141	520
Quay Town ..	64	452	45	226
	<hr/> 318		<hr/> 284	
	1800		1128	

Decrease of houses 34, and of inhabitants 672. In 1783, many of the houses were uninhabited and falling rapidly to ruin.

In 1801, the resident inhabitants amounted to 1168.

In the Population Abstract of 1821, the return for Minehead stands thus:—

Houses inhabited.....	258
Uninhabited	6
Building	1
Families	280
Of whom were employed	
In agriculture	106
In trade	76
All others	98
Persons 1239 ;—viz.	
Males	576
Females	663

The comparative population of Minehead in 1705, 1783, 1801, and 1821, will therefore stand thus:—

	1705.	1783.	1801.	1821.
Persons	1800....	1128....	1168....	1239

So that although the number of inhabited houses be less by twenty-six in 1821 than they were in 1783, and by sixty than they were in 1705, yet the population in 1821 was greater by one hundred and eleven than it was in 1783.

CORPORATION AND PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

The town was endowed by Queen Elizabeth in the first year of her reign, and endowed with great privileges. It was formerly governed by a portreeve, but now by two constables, chosen annually at the court-leet of the lord of the manor.

This borough has sent members to parliament since

the first year of Elizabeth. By a resolution of a committee of the House of Commons, Feb. 24th, 1717, the right of election was declared to be in the parishioners of Minehead and Dunster, being house-keepers in the borough of Minehead, and not receiving alms. And by another resolution of a committee on the 13th of June, in the same year, the precept is to be directed to the two constables of Minehead, and they are to make the return.

In the journals of the House of Commons, Jan. 22, 1562, it is said, "that burgesses being returned of divers boroughs not lately returned in the chancery, namely, the boroughs of Tregony, St. Germane, St. Mawes in Cornwall, and Minehead in Somersetshire, Mr. Speaker declared to the House that the lord steward agreed they should resort to the House, and with convenient speed shew letters patent why they be returned to this parliament."

On the 3rd of March, 1620, Sir George Moore reported to the House that the borough of Minehead was incorporated in the first of Elizabeth, and that in the fifth of the same reign its right of sending burgesses to parliament was questioned amongst others; that the members for this borough served all the queen's reign, and also in the first of James I. but in the second year of that reign, their franchises were seized by that king, and the corporation was dissolved; that in the twelfth of that reign, no return was made for this borough; and therefore it was the opinion of the counsel that

except they could find precedents before the fifth of Elizabeth, their election and return were void. They had therefore a day given them; and now further time was required, upon which the committee was doubtful.

Sir Robert Floyd desired that he might be heard by his counsel.

On the 16th of March, it was alleged by counsel that this borough did not challenge its rights by charter but by prescription, clearly used from the fifth of Elizabeth.

On the 7th of May, 1621, a new writ was ordered for this borough, on the motion of Mr. Pym, in the room of Sir Robert Floyd.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF
MINEHEAD.

1 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	Thomas Fitzwilliam, esq.—John Fowler, esq.
5 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	Thomas Luttrell, esq.—Thomas Fitzwilliam, esq.
13 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	John Coles, esq.—Thomas Malet, esq.
14 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	Dominicus Chester.—Richard Cabell.
27 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	Edward Rogers, esq.—George Luttrell, esq.
28 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	John Luttrell.—Robert Crosse, gent.
31 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	John Luttrell.—Benedict Barnham, gent.
35 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	Richard Stanbury.—James Quirnlly, merchant.
39 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	William Bampfylde, esq.—Conrad Powle.
43 <i>Elizabeth.</i>	Francis James, LL. D.—Lewis Lashbrooke, esq.
1 <i>James I.</i>	Ambrose Parvil, gent.—Sir M. Berkeley, knt.
12 <i>James I.</i>	No return for this borough.
18 <i>James I.</i>	Sir Robert Floyd.—Francis Perce, gent.

- 16 *Charles I.* Sir Francis Popham, knt.—Alex. Luttrell, gent.;
were both deceased in 1644, *writ issued Oct.*
25, 1645.

Edward Popham, esq.—Walter Strickland; esq.

- 12 *Chas. II.* 1660 Francis Luttrell.—Charles Prymme.
13 *Charles II.* Sir Hugh Wyndham.—Francis Luttrell.
30 *Charles II.* Sir John Mallet.—Francis Luttrell.
32 *Charles II.* Thomas Palmer.—Francis Luttrell.
Nathaniel Palmer.—Francis Luttrell.

2 *Willm. & Mary* John Sandford.—Alexander Luttrell.

7 *William III.* John Stamford.—Henry Luttrell.

10 *William III.* Jacob Banks.—Henry Luttrell.

12 *William III.* Alexander Luttrell.—Sir Jacob Banks.

13 *William III.* Jacob Banks.—John Luttrell.

1 *Anne.* Alexander Luttrell.—Sir Jacob Banks.

4 *Anne.* Alexander Luttrell.—Sir Jacob Banks.

6 *Anne.* Alexander Luttrell.—Sir Jacob Banks.

7 *Anne.* Sir John Trevelyan.—Sir Jacob Banks.

9 *Anne.* Sir John Trevelyan.—Sir Jacob Banks.

12 *Anne.* Sir John Trevelyan.—Sir Jacob Banks.

1 *George I.* Sir John Trevelyan.—Hon. Robert Mansel.

9 *George I.* Robert Mansel, died; *a new writ ordered May 13,*
1723.

Thomas Hall, clerk of the Green Cloth to the Prince.

—Francis Whitworth.

1 *George II.* Francis Whitworth.—Alexander Luttrell.

8 *George II.* Francis Whitworth.—Alexander Luttrell, died; *new*
writ, 15th June, 1737.

Sir W. Codrington, died; *new writ, Feb. 1, 1739.*

—Thomas Carew

15 *George II.* Francis Whitworth, died; *new writ, March 12, 1742.*
Francis Carew.—John Periam.

21 *George II.* Chas. Whitworth.—P. Wyndham O'Brien.

27 *George II.* Chas. Whitworth.—Daniel Boone, a Clerk of the
Household to the Princess Dowager of Wales.

- 2 *George III.* Percy, earl of Thomond, in Ireland, made Cofferer of the Household ; *new writ, re-elected* 1761.—Henry Sheftner.
- 8 *George III.* Henry Luttrell.—Sir Chas. Whitworth.
- 15 *George III.* Henry F. Luttrell, Chiltern Hundred ; *new writ*, 1774.—Thomas Pownall.—John F. Luttrell.
- 21 *George III.* Francis F. Luttrell, Chiltern Hundreds. — Henry Beaufoy.—John F. Luttrell.
- 24 *George III.* Henry Beaufoy, made his election for Yearnor, Norfolk ; *new writ*, 11th June, 1784.—Hon. Chas. Phipps, died ; *new writ*, Oct., 1786.—Robert Wood, a capt. of dragoons.—John F. Luttrell.
- 31 *George III.* John F. Luttrell.—Viscount Parker.
- 36 *George III.* John F. Luttrell.—John Langston.
- 43 *George III.* John F. Luttrell.—John Patteson.

 CHARITIES.

In the Fifteenth Report of the Commissioners on Charities, there is the following account of those belonging to Minehead.

THE COW CHARITY.

By an act of parliament, passed in the eighteenth year of Charles II. intituled, an act against importing cattle from Ireland and other parts beyond the seas, it was enacted, that the importation of cattle, from the second day of February, 1660, should be a common and public nuisance; and that if any great cattle should, from and after the day above-mentioned, be imported or brought from beyond sea, into the kingdom of England, it

should be lawful for any constable, tithingman, headborough, churchwardens, or overseers of the poor, or any of them, within their respective liberties or parishes, to seize the same, and that the same should be forfeited, one half to the use of the poor of the parish where the same should be seized, and the other half to the use of the persons seizing the same; and by another act of the twentieth of Charles II. it was enacted, that not only the constables and officers before-mentioned, but any other inhabitant of the liberties and parishes where such importation of foreign cattle should be made, should be empowered to seize and deliver the same over to the constables, churchwardens, and overseers of the same parish, to be disposed of according to the said acts; and that every vessel importing the same should be liable to the like seizure; and that the monies arising from the sale thereof should be applied as aforesaid.

After the passing of the said acts, and about the year 1669, it appears, that a number of great cattle were unlawfully imported from Ireland into the port of Minehead, and that the same, together with the vessel importing them, were seized and sold, pursuant to the powers in the said two acts of parliament contained; and that a moiety of the sum produced from the sale thereof was, by the direction of the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish of Minehead, invested in the purchase of a freehold estate in the parish of Ottery St. Mary, in the county of Devon, which was conveyed

to certain persons, as trustees for the said parish of Minehead, and that a book was kept in the said parish, called the *cow money book*, in which entries were made of the rents and profits received from the said charity estate, and of the distribution thereof, from time to time for charitable purposes, under the disposition and management of the trustees of the said estate.

It also appears, that the whole of the rents and profits of the charity estate, were not applied to the use of the poor of the said parish, but that some part of such rents and profits were, from time to time, laid out and invested by the trustees in the purchase of stock in the public funds.

There having been some irregularity in the appointment of trustees, and in the disposition of the charity funds, a petition was, in or about the year 1820, presented to the lord chancellor, by the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish; and by an order of the said court, it was referred to one of the masters of the court, to inquire and certify of what the charity properly consisted, and in whom the same was then vested, and who was in possession of the said charity estate; and it was ordered, that the said master should appoint one or more proper person or persons to be a trustee or trustees of the same; and that the said master should approve of a proper scheme for the regular administration of the said charity.

The said master, by his report, dated the 3rd of August, 1821, certified that the charity property con-

sisted of a farm-house, with outbuildings, and about twenty acres of land, situate in the parish of Ottery St. Mary, in the county of Devon, which had been let to a tenant at the clear annual rent of £40, for a term of seven years, which expired at Michaelmas, 1816, up to which time the rent had been settled; and the said master further certified, that since that time the rent of the premises had not been fixed, but that the same tenant had continued to occupy the said farm, under an expectation that the said rent would be reduced; and that the full yearly value of the said estate was then about £30; and the said master further certified, that a further part of the said charity property consisted of the sum of £700, three per cent. consolidated bank annuities, standing in the name of William Warren, one of the trustees, which had arisen from the accumulation of the rents of the said estate, which had been misapplied; and also of a balance of £390 15s. or thereabouts, in the hands of John Fownes Luttrell, esq. accumulated subsequently to the said investment of the said £700 three per cents.; and the said master further certified, that it had been proposed before him, on behalf of the said petitioners, the churchwardens and overseers of the said parish, that the said freehold estate and the £700 three per cent. bank annuities, and also the said money before-mentioned to be in the hands of the said John Fownes Luttrell, being the whole of the said charity property, should be vested in certain trustees therein named, upon trust, to apply the

rents and dividends arising therefrom in the manner following: namely, first, to apply annually for the benefit of fifteen poor men, being parishioners of Minehead, and living within the same parish, and not receiving parochial relief, a sufficient sum to purchase for such fifteen poor men cloth sufficient for a coat each; secondly, to apply annually to fifteen poor married or widow women, being parishioners, and residents as aforesaid, not receiving parochial relief, a sufficient sum to purchase a cloak for each; thirdly, to apply annually to ten poor people, being parishioners, and residents as aforesaid, and not receiving parochial relief, a sufficient sum to purchase a pair of blankets for each; fourthly, to apply the residue of such rents and dividends, from and after the applications aforesaid, annually, unto and among such of the parishioners as aforesaid, as the said trustees should select or think proper, not receiving parochial relief, in the following proportions: the sum of two shillings to each married or widowed person, and to each child of such married or widowed person, under the age of nine years, one shilling; and to all unmarried women, being parishioners, maintaining themselves independently of their parents, and not receiving parochial relief, one shilling each; fifthly, that the application of the funds should be made in the order before set down; and that such of the poor persons as should have received the benefit of the said charity, in coats, cloaks, or blankets, should not be entitled to any money arising from the residue of the said

funds in the year in which they should so receive such coat, cloak, or blankets, respectively ; nor in the year immediately following thereon ; nor should be again entitled to receive either coat, cloak, or blankets, until the whole of such other poor persons had been aided in like manner by the funds of the said charity; sixthly, that in case there should be any remaining monies after the aforesaid applications and distribution, the same should be applied for the general purposes and benefit of the said charity, according to the directions of the said trustees; and seventhly, that upon the death of any one of the trustees therein named, the surviving trustees should, within the space of three months next afterwards, appoint a meeting to elect a proper person being either the lord of the manor of Minehead for the time being, or vicar of the same place, or a parishioner of the said parish, to be a new trustee in the room of such deceased trustee ; and that the said trust estate and property should be transferred unto such surviving trustees, and such new trustee upon the trusts aforesaid ; and the said master further certifieth, that he appointed John Fownes Luttrell, the Rev. Alexander Fownes Luttrell, Richard Searle, William Warren, James Newcombe, Francis Merrick, and Samuel Berry, to be trustees of the said charity property ; and that he approved of the said proposal for the regulation of the said charity.

By an order bearing date the 15th day of August, 1821, the said report was confirmed ; and it was ordered

that the said charity estate, situate in the said parish of Ottery St. Mary, should be conveyed, and that the £700 stock should be transferred to the trustees appointed by the said master ; and further, that the said John Fownes Luttrell should pay to the said trustees the sum of £390 15s., the balance admitted to be in his hands, after the payment thereof of the costs of all parties in the said matters, to be applied by the said trustees according to the proposal approved of by the said master.

In pursuance of which order, by an indenture, made the 24th day of January, 1822, between John Fownes Luttrell of Dunster Castle, in the county of Somerset, of the first part ; William Warren, of Minehead, of the second part ; the said John Fownes Luttrell, the Rev. Alexander Fownes Luttrell, Richard Searle, William Warren, James Newcombe, Francis Merrick, and Samuel Berry, of the third part ; and Francis Bastone, of Minehead, of the fourth part ; reciting the said several matters as above set forth ; it is witnessed, that for the nominal consideration therein mentioned to be paid by the said Francis Bastone to the said John Fownes Luttrell, he, the said John Fownes Luttrell, with the concurrence of the said Alexander Fownes Luttrell, and the said other parties of the third part, did thereby release and convey unto the said Francis Bastone the said trust hereditaments ; to hold the same to the use of the said John Fownes Luttrell, Alexander Fownes Luttrell, Richard Searle, William Warren,

James Newcombe, Francis Merrick, and Samuel Berry, their lands and assigns, for ever, upon trust for the said charity, according to the true intent and meaning of the said master's report, and the said order confirming the same ; and reciting that the said William Warren, in obedience to the said order, had transferred the said sum of £700, three per cent. bank annuities, into the names of himself and the said other trustees ;—the same trustees did thereby declare themselves to stand possessed thereof, upon trust for the said charity, according to the said master's report, and the said order of confirmation.

The balance in the hands of Mr. Luttrell was afterward paid, and together with the sum of £73 10s., arising from subsequent dividends unapplied, invested in the purchase of three per cent. consolidated bank annuities, whereby the funds belonging to the charity were raised to £1,151 8s. three per cent consols, and which was afterward increased by a subsequent investment of unapplied dividends, to the sum of £1197 5s. 7d. which is the present amount of the funds or stock belonging to the said charity.

The account produced by the treasurer of this charity for the year 1824, and audited and signed by six of the trustees, exhibits a balance of £26 7s. 8d. in favour of the charity.

The directions contained in the report and order above set forth, appear to have been strictly pursued.

The trustees meet to consider of the proper persons

to be relieved under this charity, about three weeks before the time of distribution, and the names of the objects thus ascertained are set down upon a list, and the funds are distributed accordingly.

THE ALMSHOUSE.

By an indenture dated 1st of August, twelfth of Charles I. and made between Thomas Luttrell, of Dunster Castle, esquire, lord of the manor of Minehead, of the one part; and Richard Quirke the younger, of Minehead, mariner, one of the freeholders of the said manor, of the other part;⁷⁶ it is witnessed, that the said Thomas Luttrell, in consideration of £13, demised and granted unto the said Robert Quirke, his executors, administrators, and assigns, one plot or piece of waste land, parcel of the said manor, containing one hundred and forty-four feet in length or thereabouts, and sixteen feet in breadth or thereabouts, near the cross, in the Old Market Place, in Minehead, as it was then bounded out, upon which said waste land the said Robert Quirke had erected an almshouse, having eleven several rooms or dwellings therein, for and towards the relief, succour, and comfort of such distressed, impotent, poor persons of the said parish of Minehead, as he the said

⁷⁶ Among the Luttrell papers at Dunster Castle is the following:—

“ 1629. Francis Luttrell—Grant to Robert Quirke of a piece of waste ground in Minehead for 500 years, to build an alms-house on. Twenty shillings fine. Twelve pence rent.”—*PRYNNE'S INDEX*.

Robert Quirke the younger, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, should from time to time thereafter, during the continuance of the term therein after-mentioned, think fit in their discretions, to be placed and settled in the said almshouse, and therein, at his and their good-will and pleasure, to make their habitation and abode; and also all that piece or plot of waste land, parcel likewise of the said manor, containing threescore feet in length, and forty feet in breadth, and situate within the said parish of Minehead, upon the beach of Chezell, adjoining unto the western side of the harbour or key there, whereon, or upon part whereof, the said Robert Quirke the younger had already, at his own costs, erected a cellar or store-house, the profit whereof he intended should be, after his death, wholly employed and bestowed towards the raising of a stock for the maintenance of the said almshouse; to hold to the said Robert Quirke, his executors, administrators, or assigns, from the date of the said indenture, for the term of one thousand years, for a rent of two shillings, to be paid as therein-mentioned; and it was therein expressed, to be the true intent and plain meaning of both the parties, that if the said rent should be behind for the space therein-mentioned, or that the said Robert Quirke, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, should at any time thereafter convert or employ the said demised premises, or any part thereof, for any other use than to the relief and succour of the impotent poor and needy persons of the

said parish of Minehead, and maintenance of the said almshouses aforesaid, that then it should be lawful for the said Thomas Luttrell, his heirs or assigns, to re-enter upon and become possessed of the said demised premises.

The said Robert Quirke, by his will, dated 4th July, 1648, amongst other things, gave and devised as follows :—

“ And whereas it has pleased GOD that I have built an almshouse in the town of Minehead aforesaid, containing several dwelling-houses, I do give the said houses unto the poor of the town of Minehead aforesaid, for ever ; but the ordering of the said houses, I leave to my son, Robert Quirke, and to the name of the Quirkes for ever, and for the want of the names of the Quirkes, to the overseers of the poor of the parish of Minehead for ever.”

“ Item, I give unto my said almshouses £200, to be bestowed in lands for the better relief and reparation of them.

“ Item, I do give unto my said almshouses, my two inner cellars at the key of Minehead aforesaid, to be let out for rent to him that will give the most money for them ; and the cellars and the almshouse being repaired, my will is, that the money which remaineth shall be equally divided among the poor people dwelling in the almshouse twice a year.”

The family of the testator of the name of Quirke has been long extinct, so that the management and

disposition of the almshouse, which is still standing, has devolved upon the overseers of the parish of Minehead, who use the same as a common parish poor-house.

There is nothing to show that the £200 bequeathed by the said will for the support of the almshouses, was ever laid out in land. The two inner cellars at the key, mentioned in the will, are now in the possession of Mrs. Needs, the widow of George Needs, who appears to have had no claim whatever to them, but as the representative of her husband, who wrongfully held them in his occupation; but she has now consented to give them up to the parish.

COLONEL LUTTRELL'S CHARITY.

Upon a table in the parish church it is recorded, that "the Hon. Colonel Alexander Luttrell, who died 22d September, 1711, gave to the poor of Minehead £50, to be put out at interest, for their use;" which agrees in substance with the will of the said Alexander Luttrell.

From various memoranda in the churchwardens' books, it appears that this sum was received by the then churchwardens, and lent out on private securities for a series of years, until, according to another memorandum in the same book, it came into the hands of Mr. Alexander Luttrell, then of Dunster Castle, on the 29th of September, 1729, who gave a bond for the same. There is no such bond now in the parish chest,

and there is no entry since the above in the churchwardens' book, of any payment on account of that £50. In the year 1744, an account was taken in the master's office, under a decretal order of the Court of Chancery, of the debts of Alexander Luttrell, esq. a descendant of the above-named Colonel Luttrell; but the schedule given in upon that occasion by the executors, contains no mention of any debt due from the estate of the said Alexander Luttrell, to the parish of Minehead. At this distance of time, therefore, it seems that this sum of £50 is now irrecoverable.

JOAN MOGGRIDGE'S CHARITY.

Upon the benefaction table in the church, the following charities are inscribed:—"Mrs. Joan Moggridge, late wife of Mr. William Moggridge, vicar of Minehead, who died September 9th, 1727, gave to eight poor widows of Minehead, not receiving alms, the yearly interest of £20 for ever."

Of this charity there can be found no trace or vestige whatever, except the above inscription. It never appears to have been in operation, and is considered as lost.

GEORGE SULLIVAN'S CHARITY.

"Mr. George Sullivan, of Minehead, maltster, who died Nov. 3d, 1755, gave unto the poor £100, the

interest thereof to be paid unto Joan Oxme and Sarah Leigh, widows, during their lives ; and after their deaths, unto sixteen aged, weak people of this parish, not receiving alms, on the first of January in every year for ever.

“N. B. The above £100 is put into the four per cent. annuities for 1760.”

In the vestry book belonging to this parish, there is the following memorandum, dated 27th December, 1761 :—“ Whereas George Sullivan, of Minehead, lately deceased, by his last will, dated on or about the 10th day of July, 1752, gave unto the poor of the parish of Minehead aforesaid, the sum of £100 to be put out at interest, and the interest thereof, not to exceed £4 per year, to be yearly paid to 16 aged, weak people, for ever, having no relief of the said parish of Minehead ; and then declared his will to be, that two persons therein-named should receive, during their lives, the interest ; and that on the death of both or either of them, the whole of the share of either of them dying first, should go to and be paid amongst the said sixteen persons above described, on the first day of January next happening after the death of them, or either of them ; and further declared his will to be, that his executors, and their heirs, and the survivor of them, and his heirs and assigns, should have the disposal of the aforesaid interest, as before directed ; and then made Andrew Blake and Susanna Price, his nephew and niece, joint executors of his said will ; and that the said

Andrew Blake and Susanna Price were desirous that the said £100 might be placed out at interest, on the most safe security, for the purposes in the said will set forth; and then stated, that they had, on the same day, paid the same unto John Adams and John Leigh, churchwardens, and Walter Franks, overseer of the poor of the said parish, at a vestry held for that purpose, and in the presence of the minister and divers parishioners, whose names were thereunto subscribed; and the said subscribers did thereby declare their consent and agreement, that the said £100 should be forthwith placed in some or one of the public funds that should come nearest to the interest in the testator's will described; and that the same should be placed in the name or names of John Adams, John Leigh, or Walter Franks, or some or one of them, for the purpose aforesaid."

The said John Adams, John Leigh, and Walter Franks, by another memorandum, acknowledged to have received, on the day and year of the date thereof, of Andrew Blake and Susanna Price, the afore-mentioned sum of £100, and promised that they would with all convenient speed, place the same at interest in one of the public funds.

It is afterward stated, that the above £100 was put into the four per cents. for 1760, by the said John Adams.

The representatives of the testator continued in succession to receive the dividends, and account for and

distribute the same, according to the directions of the will, until a few years ago, when the principal sum of £100 four per cents. was sold out, by mistake, by Miss Ann Blake, of Minehead, together with some of her own property ; since which time she has paid four per cent. for the said sum of £100, and declares herself to be ready to invest it again in the funds, on the first opportunity.

This sum of £4 per annum appears to have been distributed by her, without distinction, between those who do and those who do not receive parish pay ; but Miss Blake being advised of the terms of the will, has undertaken in future to observe that distinction.

HARBOUR—QUAY.

In the last century but one, the trade of this port fell into a declining state ; the quay became neglected, and the town was sinking rapidly into decay. In consequence of this state of things, an application was made to parliament by Tregonwell Luttrell, esq. for the purpose of obtaining powers to remedy these inconveniences. He therefore obtained, in the twelfth and thirteenth of William III. an act, ch. 9. “ for recovering, securing, and keeping in repair the harbour of Minehead, for the benefit and support of the navigation of this kingdom.”

The preamble to this act sets forth that the harbour of Minehead hath by long experience been found to be

of great benefit to the western parts of this kingdom, and to all seafaring men, who, by any stress of weather are driven upon that coast. And whereas the said harbour and pier were first founded and built, and have constantly hitherto been repaired and maintained at the private expense of the ancestors of Tregonwell Luttrell, esq. without any assistance, except only some small acknowledgment paid to them as lords of the manor of Minehead. And whereas the old pier of the said harbour is so choaked and barred by the beach which hath been thrown into it, by the violence of the sea and alteration of the tides, that unless some speedy and effectual care be taken to stop the growing beach that riseth at the mouth of the said harbour, by building out a new head, and other works, and duly cleaning and repairing the same, the said harbour will become useless to the kingdom, prejudicial to trade, and dangerous to navigation, to the diminution of his majesty's revenue, and impoverishing the inhabitants of Minehead, and other places and counties adjacent. And whereas the charges of making such new head and works, and of repairing and maintaining the same will be too great to be borne by the said Tregonwell Luttrell and his heirs; to the end therefore that such new head and works may be made, and the said harbour preserved and maintained, be it enacted, that from and after the 24th of June, 1701, for the term of twenty-one years, and to the end of the next session of parliament, there shall be paid over and besides the ancient

and customary duties and acknowledgments already accustomed to be paid to the said Tregonwell Luttrell, esq. and his ancestors, for the wool, woollen and bay yarn, and other goods which shall be imported into or exported from the said port of Minehead, the sums following; that is to say, such sum not exceeding one halfpenny per stone of eighteen pounds for all wool, and not exceeding one penny per stone for all woollen and bay yarn imported within the term aforesaid, as the trustees herein-after named shall order and appoint.

The rates shall be paid by the person to whom the goods shall be delivered, and the goods weighed at the town-hall by the proper officer, according to ancient usage and custom. And for every ton of all other goods imported into, or exported from, the said port of Minehead, shall be paid sixpence per ton by the master of the vessel importing or exporting the same.

And for every ship or vessel which, during the term aforesaid, shall by stress of weather be drove into the said harbour, or shall otherwise come into the same for security and preservation, the said harbour not being their discharging port, there shall be paid by the master of the said vessel, for every ship using the coasting trade of the burthen of thirty tons and less than fifty tons, one shilling; and for every coasting vessel of fifty tons and upwards, two shillings; and for every vessel of thirty tons and less than fifty, trading to or from Ireland, France, Spain, or other parts of Europe, or to and from the plantations in America,

the sum of two shillings and sixpence ; and for every vessel of fifty tons and upwards trading to and from the said parts the sum of five shillings. And for every vessel of thirty tons and below fifty tons, trading from any place in Asia, Africa, or America, other than his majesty's plantations the sum of five shillings ; and for every vessel of fifty tons or upwards to or from the same parts, ten shillings. And the master is to be allowed these duties by the merchants.

Trustees to be appointed for ordering the works in and about the harbour, and for the collection and disposition of the said duties ; such trustees to be only eleven at one time, and the lord of the manor of Minehead always to be one.

The trustees are to make rules, &c. for collecting and disposing of the said duties, and are to appoint a collector, who is to receive and pay the duties to the appointment of the trustees.

The officer of customs at the port of Minehead shall not take entries or grant warrants for shipping any goods until the duties are paid, nor shall he permit any vessel to sail till the receipt for the duties is shown to him. Any officer of the customs offending in the premises to forfeit £20.

Persons authorised by the trustees may enter vessels and receive the duties, and on non-payment may distress the ship and all her tackle ; and if the duties are not paid in ten days after distress, the collector may sell, and apply the proceeds according to the act.

All monies arising from the duties and penalties collected under this act, except twelve pence in the pound allowed for collecting the said duties, shall be applied by the trustees in building a new head, clearing the beach and other works for securing, preserving, amending, and maintaining the said pier and harbour of Minehead, and to no other use whatsoever. And the collector shall keep a book of receipts and payments, and shall annually deliver his accounts upon oath to the trustees, who are empowered to administer the said oath.

The trustees, or the majority of them, may borrow money for the purposes of this act, upon security of the duties.

The lord of the manor of Minehead in his court-leet may appoint a water bailiff, who shall be sworn before the steward of the said court, to execute the said office according to ancient custom and usage. The water bailiff shall have power to require all ships to be anchored and moored in a proper manner and place, and that the said ships shall not throw out their ballast into the said harbour, to fill up and prejudice the same.

And for the support of the said works, there shall be paid to the lord of the manor of Minehead for the several goods imported into the said port, namely, for every twenty stones of wool, one penny; for every twenty stones of woollen and bay yarn, two-pence; for every ton of salt, two-pence; for every quarter of corn, two-pence; and for every chaldron of coals, two-pence.

Nothing in this act shall be construed to take away or diminish the ancient acknowledgments, rights, or properties of the lord of the said manor of Minehead, his heirs or assigns.

By another act passed in the tenth year of Queen Anne, chap. 32, the before-mentioned term of twenty-one years, is extended sixteen years longer after the expiration of the said twenty-one years.

This act then states that the merchants, ship-masters, and other inhabitants of Minehead, thinking it necessary for the better security of their shipping in coming into the said harbour with more safety in dark nights, that some light be prepared for their direction, and fixed at the quay head; it is hereby enacted, that a large lanthorn be, from time to time, made such as the said trustees shall approve of, fixed up at the quay head, and that sufficient lights be burned therein between the 1st of September and the 31st of March in every year; and that the master of every vessel coming into the said harbour shall pay sixpence, and of every fishing-boat not belonging to the said harbour shall pay three-pence; and all other fishing-boats, belonging to the said harbour, shall pay during the fishing season, from September 1 to March 31, the sum of four shillings; and the same shall be raised, collected, and disposed of in the same manner as the duties granted under the former act.

And that all goods shipped or discharged at any

place within the liberty of the port of Minehead, by permission of the custom-house officers, shall pay the said duties, as if the same were actually shipped or landed within the said harbour.

These duties were further continued by the seventh of George I. cap. 14. By the tenth of George III. cap. 24. Continued for sixty years by the tenth of George III. cap. 26. section 1. For forty years by the forty-ninth George III. cap. 1. And made perpetual by an act passed in the fourth of George IV.

TRADE.

About the beginning of the last century, upwards of forty vessels were employed in the trade to Ireland. Many others were engaged in the West India, Virginia, and the Mediterranean trade, to the ports of which latter sea, four thousand barrels of herrings were at that time shipped here annually. But all this is now nearly at an end; the trade is lost; and there are at present only five or six vessels belonging to this port, two of which are employed in the Bristol trade, to which place they carry grain, malt, bark, timber, flour, and some leather, loading back with groceries, iron, &c.; the others trade to Wales, and carry thither flour, malt, and timber; their return cargos being coals, culm, or lime stones. Herrings are still taken on this coast, sometimes in large quantities, both in stake and draw

nets, the latter are shot from boats; but the arrival of a considerable shoal is very uncertain, and this year, (1829) very few have been taken.

But notwithstanding the present low state of commerce in this town, the following account of its former trade will evince it to have been very considerable.

In the time of Charles II. and Queen Anne, several rates and subsidies on the importation of bay and woollen yarn were made payable at Minehead, amounting in the whole to 9s. 6d. per hundred weight; which continued till the year 1740; at which time complaints having been made that large quantities of wool had been smuggled from Ireland to France, as a means to prevent such irregular practices in future, all the said duty was taken off. But notwithstanding this great encouragement to Irish industry, there was a few years after so considerable a surplus of raw wool in Ireland, that by taking a period of eight years, (from 1745 to 1754) there was imported into Minehead 179,459 stones of wool, (of fourteen pounds each) which left a profit to this town of £4790: namely,

Freight.....	£2990
Haulage of ships.....	150
Quay duties.....	400
Packers and porters.....	450
Agency and commission ..	800

£4790

Which with sundry other contingent advantages may

on an average be fairly computed at £625 per annum benefit to the town.

The imports of wool from Ireland to this period are as under :—

	Stones.
In 1718	31269
1721	33388
1722	64344
1733	15992
1734	40522
1736	12795
1740	6689

The following is an account of the other imports into Minehead for two periods of four years each, with a calculation of the value of the several commodities.

[First period, from 1758 to 1763.]

	1759.			1760.			1761.			1762.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bay yarn.....	656	0	0	888	5	0	537	3	4	175	11	6
Woollen yarn.....	17	9	6	106	9	0	6	10	0			
Linen cloth.....	5409	13	6	9661	17	6	7656	1	6	12654	13	6
Lamb skins.....				32	11	0						
Slink ditto				97	2	6						
Kid skins.....	12	7	6	47	5	0						
Sheep and goat ditto				45	1	6						
Ox and cow hides ..				637	10	0	927	0	0	288	15	0
Calf skins	170	18	0	883	10	0	660	0	0	329	5	0
Butter	35	0	0				58	8	9			
Tallow	16	5	6	59	10	0						
Hogs' lard				187	4	0	33	3	0			
Pork.....	13	17	0				21	12	6			
Bacon	20	14	0									
Bristles, dressed and undressed							102	0	0			

[*Second period, from 1774 to 1779.*]

	1775.			1776.			1777.			1778.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Bay yarn	13317	3	0	13879	10	0	17534	12	0	1018	1	0
Woollen yarn										43	4	0
Linen cloth	11453	0	6	4427	18	6	3138	10	6	4409	17	0
Lamb skins				177	18	0	288	1	0	251	0	0
Slink ditto				205	7	6	254	19	6	287	7	6
Kid skins				9	12	6	207	7	6	87	16	9
Sheep & goat skins												
Ox and cow hides	3278	0	0	6087	8	0	1735	0	0	1862	10	0
Calf skins	164	11	0	72	0	0	50	0	0	108	10	0
Butter	158	0	0	264	14	6	270	1	0	274	13	0
Tallow							107	6	0			
Hogs' hard							11	9	6			
Pork	12	0	0				4	7	0	2	8	0
Bacon				8	0	0				77	0	0
Bristles, dressed & undressed												

The exports for the same periods are not considerable here, as the vessels in the Irish trade mostly, went to Wales and loaded coals to carry home ; the most considerable article of export has been oak-bark, valued at £2026 10s. The other articles of export in the same periods have been chiefly grain, amounting to £1743 15s.

Great numbers of cattle, sheep, and pigs are landed at Minehead every season, but the vessels which bring them leave the port in ballast.

The inhabitants were at one time extensively engaged in the manufacture of woollen goods. This is now entirely lost. At present there are nine public houses here; about twenty shops; three coal merchants; and besides the tradesmen usually found in agricultural

towns, here are two fellmongers, one tanner, and a brazier and tinplate worker.

In Domesday Book the manor of Minehead is thus described ;—

“William [de Mohun] himself holds MANEHEVE. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, when it was assessed to the geld for five hides. The arable land is sufficient for twelve ploughs. There are in demesne three ploughs and twelve bondmen; and twenty-seven villans and twenty-two bordars have ten ploughs. There is a mill which renders three shillings; twelve acres of meadow, and twenty-four acres of wood; a pasture four miles long and two miles broad. When William de Mohun received it, it was worth one hundred shillings, it was worth six pounds.”⁷⁷

In the Exeter Domesday it is said that William de Mohun has two hides and a half in demesne, and three ploughs, and the villan tenants have two hides and a half and ten ploughs. He has there one horse, sixteen bullocks, ten hogs, and three hundred sheep.⁷⁸

From this time the manor of Minehead has passed in the same way as that of Dunster, from the Mohuns to the Luttrells, and it is now the property of John Fownes Luttrell, esq., of Dunster Castle.

⁷⁷ Exch. D. vol. i. fo. 95. b. col. 4,

⁷⁸ Exon. D. fo. 336.

A market is held here on Wednesdays, and a chartered fair for pedlary, &c., on the Wednesday in Whitsun week.

The arms of the town are a ship under sail, and a woolpack, emblematical of its pristine trade.

I copy the following account of an apparition, which is said to have haunted the town and port of Minehead, from the Notes to the Second Canto of Sir Walter Scott's poem of "Rokeby." If the reader should be a believer in the appearance of ghosts and apparitions, he will thank me for presenting him with this story for his amusement ; but if he should be an unbeliever, or sceptic, I beg that he will not scruple to give Sir Walter Scott, of Abbotsford and Waverley-Hall, bart., and John Dunton, of Dunciad memory, the full benefit of the legend of Mrs. Leakey, the Minehead whistler :—

" The most formidable whistler that I remember to have met with was the apparition of a certain Mrs. Leakey, who, about 1636, resided, we are told, at Minehead, where her only son drove a considerable trade between that port and Waterford, and was owner of several vessels. This old gentlewoman was of a social disposition, and so acceptable to her friends, that they used to say to her and to each other, it were pity that such an excellent good-natured old lady should die ; to which she was wont to reply, that whatever pleasure they might find in her company just now, they would not greatly like to see or converse with her after death, which nevertheless she was apt to think might happen. Accordingly, after her death and funeral, she began to appear to various persons, by night and by

noon-day, in her own house, in the town and fields, at sea and upon shore. So far had she departed from her former urbanity, that she is reported to have kicked a doctor of medicine, for his unpolite negligence in omitting to hand her over a stile. It was also her humour to appear upon the quay, and call for a boat. But especially so soon as any of her son's ships approached the harbour, "this ghost would appear in the same garb and likeness as when she was alive, and, standing at the main-mast, would blow with a whistle, and though it were never so great a calm, yet immediately there would arise a most dreadful storm, that would break wreck, and drown ship and goods." When she had thus proceeded, until her son had neither credit to freight a vessel, nor could have procured men to sail it, she began to attack the persons of his family, and actually strangled their only child in the cradle. The rest of her story, showing how the spectre looked over the shoulder of her daughter-in-law while dressing her hair at a looking-glass; and how Mrs. Leakey, the younger, took courage to address her; and how the Beldame despatched her to an Irish prelate, famous for his crimes and misfortunes, to exhort him to repentance, and to apprise him that otherwise he would be hanged; and how the bishop was satisfied with replying, that if he was born to be hanged, he should not be drowned. All these, with many more particulars, may be found at the end of John Dunton's publications, called "Athenianism," London, 1710, where the tale is engrossed under the title of *The Apparition Evidences*, and which has been copied as above by Sir Walter Scott, into the notes to his poem of *Rokeby*.

HENRY DE BRACTON.

[Flourished 1240.]

This eminent lawyer was descended from an ancient family, who assumed the local surname from the hamlet of Bracton, now called Bratton, in the parish of Minehead. Mr. Prince, in his *Memoirs*

of the "Worthies of Devon," asserts on the authority of Sir William Pole, that this great man was a native of Devonshire, but his reasons for that assertion will by no means bear him out in the proof. "He was born," says Mr. Prince, "*most likely*, in the parish of Bratton-Clovelly," and then he produces the copy of an ancient deed, which has nothing whatever to do with Bracton, but merely to show that this Bratton-Clovelly was in the olden time called Bracton. "How long before this period," he continues, "the name of Bracton *might flourish in this place is very uncertain*; but it existed in these parts many years after, for in the twenty-third of King Edward III., John de Bracton was witness to a deed of Adam de Smith de Stringston to Simon de Furneaux of rent in Stringston." Now, it is worth remarking, that in this instance the very circumstance which Prince brings forward to support his assertion, that our lawyer's family belonged to Devonshire, has relation solely to the county of Somerset, and may be urged with much greater force in proof that the Bractons were Somersetshire people; for Stringston is a parish on the Quantock Hills, and only a few miles from Minehead; and the family of Furneaux was decidedly a Somersetshire family.

Let us now see what may be urged in favour of the Bractons being Somersetshire people, and that Henry de Bracton, one of the great ornaments of this county, was born at Bratton Court, in the parish of Minehead.

The first mention that we have of this family, is in the *Liber Niger Scaccarii*, containing the certificates of knight's fees held by the barons and great men of the time, in the twelfth of Henry II. (1166). In that year Robert de Brattone held one knight's fee in Brattone of William de Mohun, as of his barony of Dunster, and bore on his seal a chief indented, three mullets pierced. His successor was Henry de Bracton or Bratton, the celebrated lawyer and judge. Tradition points out the room still called his study over the gateway of the ancient family mansion of Bratton Court, which is even now venerable in antiquity. The same tradition also asserts that this celebrated judge lies buried in the parish church of Minehead, between the chancel and north aisle, where there is, says Mr. Collinson, a table monument, under a decorated gothic arch, erected to his memory, with a recumbent effigy vested in long robes.

His successors at Bratton Court were Thomas and Peter de Bratton, which last died in the sixteenth of Richard II., then seized of the manor of Bratton, a third part of the manor of Langridge; also of lands in Bratton, Yearnor, Ven, Periton, and Dunster. He was succeeded by Thomas de Bratton, his son and heir, who at the time of his father's death was fifteen years of age.⁷⁹ In what year this Thomas died is uncertain,

⁷⁹ Amongst the records now at Dunster Castle, there is a deed of this Thomas's homage to Sir Hugh Loterell, knt., lord of Dunstorre of his manor of Bracton held of his castle of Dunstorre by half a knight's fee, dated 1 May, 9 Hen. IV.

but a son of his own name is certified to have died in the thirty-eighth of Henry VI., seized of the manor of Briddlescombe, and the manor of Bratton, which he held of James Luttrell, esq. as of the castle of Dunster ; and also of lands and tenements in Wichanger, in the parish of Luccombe, and in Wydon, Allerford, and Periton, in the parish of Minehead. To him succeeded John de Bratton, whose son and heir was named Simon. He left issue John de Bratton, who died in the sixth of Edward IV., leaving John, his son and heir, aged four years. After whom Nicholas Bracton held this manor, as appears from a deed of his homage to Sir Hugh Luttrell for lands in Bracton, within the parish of Minehead, held of the castle of Dunster by knight's service, dated the third of Henry VII. This brings the family history of Bracton down to nearly the time when the estate passed into the family of Fry, of whose tenure of it of the castle of Dunster there are still extant three records, of the several dates of forty-second of Elizabeth, sixth of James, and ninth of Charles. From the family of Fry it passed into that of King, and is now the property of Lord King.

Bracton, in the early period of his life, studied at Oxford, where he applied himself so indefatigably, "that he carried away the glory," says Prince, "from all his contemporaries. What he chiefly delighted in was the study of law, civil and common, canon and domestic, so that after some years thus spent, he took the degree of LL. D." On his leaving Oxford he came

to London, where he soon rose to great eminence; and King Henry III., to show his respect for him, appointed him to reside in the house of William de Ferras, late earl of Derby, during the minority of his son, then in wardship to the king, as appears by this grant recorded by Sir W. Dugdale.

“Rex, etc., Sciatis quod commissimus dilecto clerico nostro, Henrico de Bracton, domos quæ fuerunt Will. de Ferrariis, quondam Comitatus Derb. in London.; in Custodia nostra existentes; ad hospitandem in eisdem, usque ad legitimam ætatem hæredum ipsius Comitatus. T. R. apud Winton. 25 Maii anno 38 Hen. III.”

In the year 1244, he was appointed by the same king to be one of the justices itinerant; in the exercise of which office he conducted himself with exemplary integrity. Sir William Dugdale says, that in the twenty-ninth of Henry III., Henry de Bracton, Roger de Thurkilby, and others, were made justices itinerant for the counties of Nottingham and Derby; and in the following year for the counties of Northumberland, Westmoreland, Cumberland, and Lancashire.

But the fame of this eminent man and great lawyer is principally founded on his learned treatise on the laws and customs of England, entitled, “Henrici de Bracton de Legibus et Consuetudinibus Anglice, libri quinq.” The first printed edition of this work was in 1569, in folio, by Richard Tottel. In 1640, it was printed in quarto, and great pains were taken to improve this edition by the collation of various manu-

scripts. One of the most authentic of these was burnt in the fire which consumed a part of the Cottonian Library, on the 23rd of October, 1731.

This work is a finished and systematic performance, giving a complete view of the law in all its titles, as it stood at the time this treatise was written. It is divided into five books, and these into tracts and chapters. Consistently with the extent and regularity of the plan, the several parts of it are filled with a curious and accurate detail of legal learning; so that the reader never fails of deriving instruction or amusement from the study of this scientific treatise on our ancient laws and customs. It is written in a style much beyond the generality of the writers of that age; being, though not always polished, yet sufficiently clear, expressive, and nervous. The excellence of Bracton's style must be attributed to his acquaintance with the writings of the Roman lawyers and canonists, from whom likewise he adopted greater helps than the language afforded him in which he wrote. Many of those pithy sentences, which have been handed down from him as rules and maxims of our law, are to be found in the volumes of the imperial and pontifical jurisprudence.

The familiarity with which Bracton refers to the Roman code has struck many readers more forcibly than any other part of his character;⁸⁰ and some have thence

⁸⁰ The rapidity with which the knowledge and study of the Roman law spread over Europe is amazing. The copy of the Pandects was found at Amalphi, A. D. 1137. Irnerius opened a college of civil law at Bologna a few

pronounced a hasty judgment upon his fidelity as a writer upon the English law. There seems indeed to have been a desire to discredit Bracton, on a supposition of his having mingled too much of the civilian and canonist with the common lawyer; and any notion that has got into vogue on such a subject is likely to have many to retail it, but only few to examine its justness.

Bracton has been charged with some inconsistencies from the citation of different passages in his book; in some he seems to discover too great an attachment to the authority of the pope, but if this was a fault, it was

years after. It began to be taught as a part of academical learning in different parts of France, before the middle of the century. Vaccarius gave lectures on the civil law at Oxford, as early as the year 1147. A regular system of feudal law, formed plainly in imitation of the Roman code, was composed by two Milanese lawyers, about the year 1150. Gratian published the Code of Canon Law, with large additions and emendations, about the same time. The earliest collection of those customs, which served as the rules of decision in the courts of justice, is the *Assises de Jerusalem*. They were compiled, as the preamble informs us, in the year 1099, and are called *Jus Consuetudinarium quo regebatur Regnum Orientale*. But peculiar circumstances gave occasion to this early compilation. The victorious crusaders settled as a colony in a foreign country, and adventurers from all the different nations of Europe composed this new society. It was necessary on that account to ascertain the laws and customs which were to regulate the transactions of business, and the administration of justice among them. But in no country of Europe was there at that time any collection of customs, nor had any attempt been made to render law fixed. The first undertaking of that kind was by Glanville, one of the justices-itinerant in England in his "*Tractatus de Legibus and Consuetudinibus Angliæ*," composed about the year 1181. The *Regiam Majestatem*, in Scotland, ascribed to David I. seems to be an imitation, and a servile one of Glanville. The effects of the revival of the Roman jurisprudence have been explained by Montesquieu, (liv. xxviii. c. 42.) and by Hume, (Hist. of Eng. ii. p. 441.—Robertson's Charles V. vol. i. p. 355, note 25.) and the authorities there referred to.

the fault of the times in which he lived ; in others he gives such various representations of the regal authority in this kingdom, as seem to favour sometimes the extension, and at other times the restraint and limitation of the royal prerogative. These inconsistencies, however, have been ascribed by candid writers to the unsettled state of the reign in which he wrote, when the power of the king and that of the barons and the greater clergy, were alternately predominant, and when charters of liberty were no sooner signed than they were violated.

The time of Bracton's death is not precisely ascertained ; but he probably survived his master, and died in the early part of the reign of Edward I. Sir William Dugdale does not mention him after 1249.

WILLIAM GILBERT.

[Vicar of Minehead, 1507.]

William Gilbert, a canon regular and prior of Brewton, in the county of Somerset, in which county he was born, became D.D. in the university of Oxford in 1506, and in the year after was made vicar of Minehead on the death of Thomas Beaumont, some time fellow of Merton College. Afterward, being esteemed a man of note, reverence, and great religion, he was made suffragan bishop to Hadrian de Castello, bishop of Bath and Wells, under the title of Episc. Megarensis, which is *in partibus infidelium*, (query,

whether Megara, in which city Euclid was born) and by that title he was admitted vicar of South-Petherton, on the 16th of December, 1525, by the presentation thereto of Jo. Herte, abbot of Athelney, as also to other benefices, and one or more dignities to keep up his post. Afterward, or about that time, he went to Rome, and there procured of the pope that the priory of Brewton might be changed into an abbey.⁸¹ After his return he was always called Abbot Gilbert, and with its name, did so change the buildings of his abbey, that it was but little better than re-edified by him.⁸²

MEMOIR OF THE REV. RICHARD FITZJAMES.

[Vicar of Minehead, died 1522.]

Richard Fitzjames, son of John Fitzjames, (by Alice his wife, daughter of John Newburgh) son of James Fitzjames, by Eleanor his wife, daughter and heiress of Sim. Draycott, was born in Somersetshire, became a student in the university of Oxford about 1459, elected probationer fellow of Merton College in 1465, took holy orders when he was master, and in 1473, was elected one of the proctors of the university. In the beginning of March, 1474, he became prebend of Taunton, in the church of Wells, upon the resignation of John Wansford; and afterward, being constituted chaplain to King Edward IV., he proceeded in divinity.

⁸¹ Leland, *Itin.* vol II. fo. 45.

⁸² Wood's *Ath. Oxon.* 2. p. 730. Bliss.

On the 12th of March, 1482, he was elected warden of Merton College upon the resignation of John Gygur, being then and afterward esteemed a frequent preacher. Which place he keeping about twenty-five years, showed himself most worthy of it by his admirable way of government which he exercised, by his continual benefaction thereunto, and by his endeavours, when in power, to promote his fellows. In March, 1483-4, he was made vicar of Minehead, and about that time rector of Aller, in Somersetshire ; in which last he was succeeded by Mr. Christopher Bainbridge, in the latter end of May, 1497. On the 2nd of June, 1495, he was admitted almoner to King Henry VII.; and on the 28th of January, 1496, being then elected by the monks of Rochester to be bishop of that see, was consecrated thereunto at Lambeth on the 21st of May following, by Cardinal Moreton, archbishop of Canterbury, and his assistants Llandaff and Bangor. In January, 1503, he was translated to the see of Chichester in the place of Dr. Edward Story, a Cantabrigian, (who dying in the latter end of the year 1502, was buried on the north side of the high altar in the cathedral church of Chichester, under a fair tomb which he a little before had built for himself) and on the 14th of March, 1505, he was nominated by the king to succeed Dr. Barons in the see of London. On the 1st of August, 1506, the temporalities of that see were restored to him;⁸³ so that

⁸³ Pat. 21 Hen. VII. p. ii. m. 9.

soon after being settled there, he resigned his wardenship of Merton College, which he had kept *in commendam*, with Rochester and Chichester, and all that time had administered the government thereof with great commendation. But though he was a bishop several years while warden, yet did he according to statute and custom, submit himself yearly in the month of January to the scrutiny of the fellows of the said college in the chapel of St. Cross, of Halywell, near Oxford, *de mora et moribus custodis*. Which statute continuing in use till the time of Henry VIII. was then disused by Dr. John Chamber, warden thereof, under pretence of absence in serving his majesty as physician. Dr. Fitzjames bestowed much money in adorning the cathedral of St. Paul, as he had done before in the collegiate church belonging to Merton College, in which house he built, but not all at his own charge, the hall, with a fair dining room over it; and a lodging room with a large vault under it, both joining on the west-side to the said hall and dining room, for the use of him whilst warden, and his successor in that office for ever. Which hall, dining room, and lodging chamber, were made as additions to the old lodgings belonging to the wardens of the said college, and were built on the south-side of those lodgings which were erected by Henry Sever, sometime warden. Dr. Fitzjames also bestowed money in the building and finishing of St. Mary's Church, Oxford. In memory of which benefaction, his arms quartering those of Draycott, were engraven on stone

over the north door leading from the school street to the lower end (on the north-side) of the body of that church. His arms also with those of Cardinal Moreton, archbishop of Canterbury, and Edmund Audley, bishop of Salisbury, were at the bottom of the stone pulpit in the said church of St. Mary, most curiously engraven, and also on the roof of the old library, (afterward a congregation house) on the north-side of St. Mary's chancel. To the reparation of which church, as also to the building of the pulpit, which consisted all of Ashlar stone, there is no doubt but that he was a benefactor. He also, with his brother, Sir John Fitzjames, lord chief justice of England, were the chief founders of the school house in Brewton, near which town, (at Redlinch, as 'tis said) they were both born. William Gilbert, abbot of Brewton, was a benefactor to it, and so was John Edmunds, D. D., abbot of Glastonbury. At length, after good deeds had trod upon his heels even to heaven's gate, he gave way to fate in a good old age, in the beginning of 1522. Whereupon his body was buried in the nave of his own cathedral of St. Paul, under the altar of St. Paul, near to the foundation or foot of the campanile, under a marble tomb prepared and erected by him in his life-time. Afterward was a little chapel erected over the said tomb, wherein, I presume, were masses said for his soul. But when the said campanile was consumed with fire, 1651, the chapel then was consumed also.

[Mag'r Ricus Fitzjames, A. M. Bath et Well. Dioc.

ordinatur Acolitus per J. Archiæpisc. Dublin. in eccl. convent. de O'Leney, 14 kal. Maii 1471.—Reg. Rotherham huic. Epi.

Vacante nuper Hospitali Sci. Leonardi Bedef. permunus Consecrationis dni Rici Fitzjames in Epm. Roffensem, post litem ultra le menses dnus. Epūs. contulit eam Magro. Bernardo Andreæ 4 Apr. 1498.—Reg. Smith, Ep. Lincoln.—KENNET.]⁸⁴

BANCKS OF MINEHEAD.

Sir Jacob Bancks was born at Stockholm, in 1633, and came into England with his uncle, John Birkman, count of Leyenburgh, ambassador of Sweden to our court, as secretary to the embassy, in 1681. He commanded several ships from 1691 to 1696, was a brave naval officer, and was at the siege of Cork, and the action at Malaga, in which last he lost his ship. On his marriage, in 1696, with Mrs. Luttrell, (relict of Francis Luttrell, esq., of Dunster Castle, and daughter of John Tregonwell, esq.) he quitted the sea-service, and was on half-pay till the time of his death, 1724, when he was the oldest officer in the navy, his commission of captain bearing date in 1690. He received the honour of knighthood in 1699, and was member of parliament for Minehead. He was in 1716 taken into custody on suspicion of being concerned in a plot with

⁸⁴ Wood's Ath. Oxon. Bliss. 2. p. 720.

Count Gyllenburgh, the Swedish envoy, but was soon after honourably discharged. He was never naturalized, as the inscription on his monument informs us. He died at London in 1724.

Jacob Bancks, esq. his second son, was a most accomplished and well-bred gentleman, his person graceful, his presence noble, his deportment and address engaging, polite, affable, and humane. He had a natural vivacity of spirit, and a peculiar sweetness of temper; and he studied to be agreeable without lessening his dignity. He was a true lover of his country, a firm friend to the constitution in church and state, and extremely popular, especially in Dorsetshire, in which county he principally resided; and where his reputation and influence exceeded those of many who were his superiors only in point of fortune. The county of Dorset, and several boroughs, courted the honour of being represented by him in parliament. At all public meetings, whether for business or diversion, he did credit to himself and his country, and was the life and soul of the company. During the whole course of his life, he possessed and preserved this popularity entire, without vanity, pride, or affectation. His generous disposition led him to revive the old English spirit of hospitality. During the recess of parliament, he spent most part of his time in the country, and kept up a good correspondence with the neighbouring gentry and clergy. He was beloved by his tenants and the honest, industrious poor, whom he relieved and sup-

ported by the truest and most rational kind of charity, that of encouraging and employing them.

He was a patron of merit and virtue. His manner of obliging charmed as much as the obligation itself; and he expressed the same satisfaction in conferring a favour, as they did who received it. He was a sincere, warm, and constant friend; wherever he professed a friendship he wanted no solicitations, often surprising persons with favours before unthought of. It was one of the greatest pleasures of his life to serve a friend.

As soon as he came to his estate he shewed his regard to his father's memory, by discharging a large debt which he lay under no obligation to clear, but that of honour and justice; and this action was the foundation of his future reputation.

His probity and integrity were inflexible; he was a lover of truth, a strict observer of his word and the exactest rules of honour, from which he never deviated. Open, candid, and sincere, he scorned the mean acts of cunning, dissimulation, and design, and tempered the plainness, and simplicity of the ancient English with the politeness of the modern.

On the death of Sir Peter Mews, he was chosen member for Christ-Church, Hants, and elected again in 1727, but his election was declared void. In 1734, he was chosen member for Shaftesbury, and declined the honour of representing the county, having devolved his interest therein to a friend.

Having lived beloved and esteemed, full of honour

though not of days, a polypus of the heart put an end to his valuable life on the 18th of February, 1737, and he was buried in the family aisle in the church of Milton-Abbas, Dorsetshire. This public loss was greatly lamented, and the more so as he died unmarried, leaving no heir of his body to copy the virtues for which he was so conspicuous, and to enjoy the fortune of which he had made so noble and proper a use.

Mr. Hutchins, to whom I am indebted for this account of the family of Bancks, says that he has here endeavoured to perpetuate the memory of a friend and patron; more especially as his heir and relation erected no monument, nor charged the stone that covers his remains with an inscription, to point out to posterity where the remains of so worthy a man are deposited.

His estates, on his death, devolved upon John Strachan, esq. descended from his father's sister. This gentleman was created a baronet in 1753.

In Milton-Abbas Church, Dorsetshire, there are the following monumental inscriptions to this family:—

“Infra sepulta jacet Domina Maria Bancks, egregiis et animi et corporis dotibus, in unoquoque vitæ statu nulli secunda, femina perpolita; Johannis Tregonwell, armigeri, et Janæ Uxoris filia, et ex asse hæres; Francisci Lutterelde Dunstar-Castle, in comitatu Somersetæ, armigeri, relicta; uxor tandem Jacobi Bancks, equitis, sueciæ indigenæ, Angliâ autem donati, cui reliquit filios Johannem et Jacobum, amplumque patrimonium. Vix puerperii pericla eluctata fuerat, cum subito in-

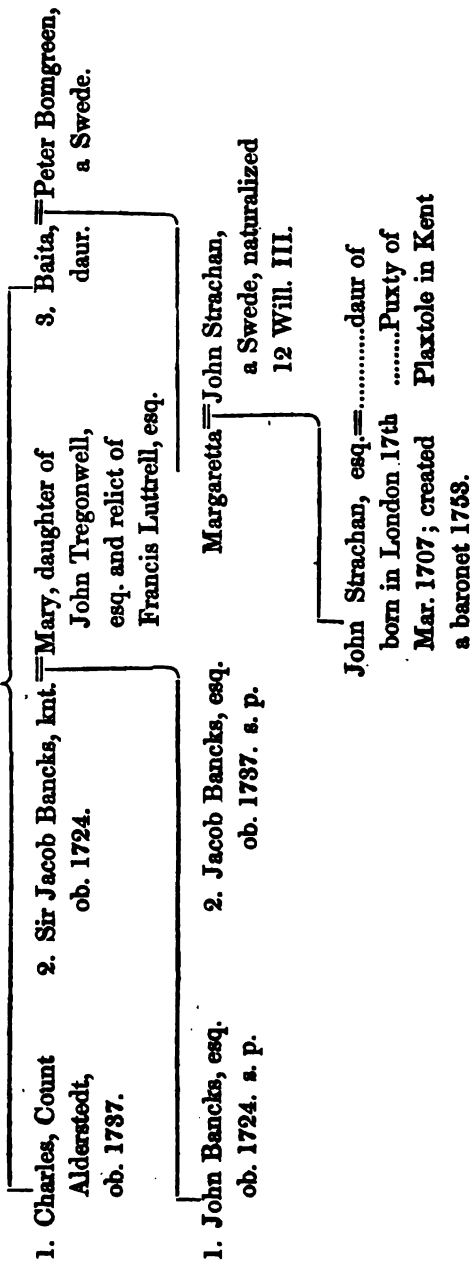
gruit variolarum morbus, vitæque optatæ inexpectatam dedit finem, Mar. 2, 170 $\frac{1}{2}$. ætat Hoc monumentum ponit mæstus maritus et in sui amoris, et illius bonitatis testimonium.

Hic situs est Jacobus Bancks, eques, suedus natione, Angliâ autem donatus, verèque Anglicanus, sincerus hujus insulæ ecclesiæque amator, in omni statu fidus utriusque defensor, in classe fortiter, in senatu diligenter, provinciam administrans, ob. 22 Decembris, 1724, ætat. sexagesimo quarto.”

“Abstersis vix lacrymis, novo luctu inopinanter opprimimur; Johannes quippe filius et hæres, juvenis ingenii boni, almæque spei, et mente et corpore vividus, nimis eheu; præmatura morte eripitur, et eodem cum patre conditorio repositus jacet, flebilis omnibus. Ob. Martii, 1724, ætat. vigesimo tertio.”

Pedigree of the Family of Bancks, of Minehead, (Som.) and of Milton-Abbas, (Dorset.)^{ss}

Laurence Bengston Bancks,
of Stockholm, chief com-
missioner of the Customs
to the King of Sweden.



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF DR. BROCKLESBY.

Richard Brocklesby, an eminent physician, was the son of Richard Brocklesby, esq., of the city of Cork, by his wife, Mary Alloway, of Minehead, and was born at Minehead, where his mother happened to be on a visit to her parents, on the 11th of August, 1722. He remained at that place until he was three years old, at which time he was carried to Ireland, and privately instructed in his father's house, in Cork. His parents were members of the Society of Friends, in which the doctor continued until the gaities of life drew him from a path too strait for a young man of his vivacity. At a proper age he was sent to the school of Ballitore, in the north of Ireland, at that time kept by Abraham Shackleton, a member also of the Society of Friends, at which Edmund Burke was educated;⁸⁶ and although they were not exactly contemporaries, Dr. Brocklesby being seven years older, yet this circumstance led to a

⁸⁶ Edmund Burke, and his brother Richard, were placed at Ballitore School, under Abraham Shackleton, in the year 1741. Edmund, being then about eleven years of age, manifested uncommon genius. He and Richard Shackleton, the son of Abraham, pursued their studies together. The minds of both were strongly bent to literary acquirements; both were endowed with a classical taste, solid judgment, and keen perceptions; and with similar dispositions, cheerful, affectionate, and benevolent. Between these kindred minds a friendship was formed which continued as long as they lived, notwithstanding the different spheres in which they moved. Mr. Burke entertained so large a share of affection through-life for his former preceptor, that he never omitted paying him an annual visit of gratitude and respect, during a period of forty-seven years. The school of Ballitore, though kept by Quakers, was for near a century well known for having furnished the bar and the pulpit of Ireland with many eminent characters.

cordial friendship which continued during their lives. Having finished his classical education at Ballitore with diligence and success, his father intending him for the medical profession, sent him to Edinburgh, whence, after attending the lectures of the professors in the different branches of medicine there, he proceeded to Leyden, and took his degree of Doctor under the celebrated Gaubius,⁸⁷ who corresponded with him for several years afterward. His diploma bears date on the 28th of June, 1745; and in the same year he published his thesis "*De Saliva Sana et Morbosa.*"

On his return from Leyden, he commenced practice in Broad Street, London; and a diligent attention to his profession, with integrity and economy, soon enabled him to surmount the difficulties which a young physician has to encounter, whilst his father assisted him with £150 a year, a liberal allowance at that time.

For the first few years after he commenced practice, he was used to say of himself, that he was determined to regulate his expenses in such a manner as to secure him from the misery of dependance, and never allow himself to have a want that was not accommodated to his income. In 1746, he published "*An Essay concerning the Mortality of the Horned Cattle;*" and in

⁸⁷ This was Jerome David Gaubius, an eminent German physician, a native of the city of Heidelberg. He was educated partly among the jesuits, and partly in the Orphan House, at Halle, under the celebrated Professor Franke. He became afterward a pupil of the learned Boerhaave, and professor of Medicine in the university of Leyden. He died Nov. 29, 1780, leaving several works of considerable value.

April, 1751, was admitted a licentiate of the College of Physicians. He had by this time risen into reputation; and as his manners were naturally mild and conciliating, his knowledge well founded, and his talents somewhat known as an author, he soon became acquainted with the leading men of his profession, particularly with the celebrated Dr. Mead, Dr. Leatherland, Dr. Heberden, Sir George Baker, and others.

On the 28th of September, 1754, he obtained an honorary degree from the university of Dublin, and was admitted at Cambridge *ad eundem* on the 16th of December following. By virtue of this degree at Cambridge, he became a fellow of the College of Physicians of London on the 25th of June, 1756; and on the 7th of October, 1758, on the recommendation of Dr. Shaw,⁸⁸ favoured by the patronage of the late Lord Barrington, he was appointed Physician to the army. In this capacity he attended in Germany the greater part of what is called "The Seven Years' War," where he was soon distinguished by his knowledge, his zeal, and humanity; and particularly recommended himself to the notice of the duke of Richmond, the late earl of

⁸⁸ This was Dr. Peter Shaw, an eminent physician and the author of several works which enjoyed a considerable reputation in their day. He published an Abridgment of Boyle's Philosophical Works, in three volumes quarto; and also of Lord Bacon's Works, in the same form. He likewise translated Hoffman on Mineral Waters, Stahl's Chemistry, in Boerhaave's *Elementa Chemica*, in conjunction with Chambers. Notwithstanding these multifarious labours, he had an extensive practice. He died in 1763. His daughter married Dr. Richard Warren.

Pembroke, and other great men of that period. With the first of these noblemen this acquaintance mellowed into a friendship which only terminated with the doctor's life. On the 27th of October, 1760, he was appointed physician to the hospitals for the British forces, and returned to England sometime before the peace of 1763.

On his return to London, he settled in Norfolk Street, in the Strand, where he soon acquired extensive practice, and was highly esteemed for his medical knowledge, more particularly in all diseases incident to a military life. His practice increased in proportion to his reputation; and with his half-pay, and an estate in Ireland of about £600 per annum, which devolved upon him by the death of his father, he was enabled to live in a handsome manner; and at his table were generally found some of the most distinguished persons for rank, learning, and abilities in the kingdom. In the course of his practice, however, not only his advice but also his purse were ever accessible to the poor, as well as to meritorious individuals who stood in need of either. Besides giving his advice to the poor of all descriptions, which he did with an active, cheerful, and unwearied benevolence, he had always upon his list two or three poor widows, to whom he granted small annuities; and who, on the quarter-day of receiving their stipends, always partook of the hospitalities of his table. To his relations, who wanted his assistance in their business or professions, he was not only

liberal, but so judicious in his liberalities as to supersede the necessity of a repetition. To his friend, Dr. Johnson, when it was in agitation to procure an enlargement of the pension of that great moralist, the better to enable him to visit Italy for the benefit of his health, he offered an establishment of £100 a year during his life;⁸⁹ and upon Dr. Johnson's declining it, which he did in the most affectionate terms of gratitude and friendship, he made him a second offer of apartments in his own house, for the more immediate benefit of medical assistance.⁹⁰ To his old and intimate

⁸⁹ Boswell, in his *Life of Dr. Johnson*, (vol. iv. p. 342.) alludes to this generous offer in the following words:—"As an instance of extraordinary liberality of friendship, he (Dr. J.) told us, that Dr. Brocklesby had, upon the occasion of his intention of going to Italy for the benefit of his health, offered him a hundred a year for his life. A grateful tear started into his eye, as he spoke this in a faltering tone." The reader cannot peruse Mr. Boswell's account of this intended tour without emotions of pleasurable satisfaction.

⁹⁰ It will not require any apology here for inserting the following account of the conversation between Dr. Brocklesby and Dr. Johnson, when the latter was at the point of death:—

"About eight or ten days before Dr. J.'s death, when Dr. Brocklesby paid him his morning visit, he seemed very low and desponding, and said, "I have been as a dying man all night." He then emphatically broke out in the words of Shakspeare,

'Canst thou not minister to a mind diseas'd;
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow;
Raze out the written troubles of the brain;
And with some sweet oblivious antidote,
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff,
Which weighs upon the heart?'

To which Dr. Brocklesby readily answered from the same great poet;

'——— Therein the patient
Must minister to himself.'

friend, Edmund Burke, he had many years back bequeathed by will the sum of one thousand pounds; but recollecting that an event might take place, which afterward did, when such a legacy could be of no service to him, he, with that generous liberality for which he was always distinguished, gave it to him in advance, "*ut pignus amicitiae*." It was accepted as such by Mr. Burke, accompanied with a letter, which none but a man, feeling the grandeur and purity of friendship like him, could dictate. Dr. Brocklesby also cultivated a warm friendship with the celebrated John Wilkes, which continued to the end of their lives; indeed they both died within a few days of each other.

On another day after this, when talking on the subject of prayer, Dr. Brocklesby repeated from Juvenal,

'*Orandum est, ut alit mens sana in corpore sano,*'

and so on to the end of the tenth satire; but in running it quickly over, he happened, in the line

'*Qui spatium vite extremum inter munera ponat,*'

to pronounce *supremum* for *extremum*, at which Johnson's critical ear instantly took offence, and discouraging vehemently on the unmetrical effect of such a lapse, he shewed himself as full as ever of the spirit of the grammarian.

Dr. Brocklesby, who could not be suspected of fanaticism, related to Mr. Boswell the following particulars:—

"For some time before Dr. Johnson's death, all his fears were calmed and absorbed by the prevalence of his faith and his trust in the merits and *propitiation* of JESUS CHRIST.

"He talked often to me about the necessity of faith in the *sacrifice* of JESUS, as necessary beyond all good works whatever, for the salvation of mankind.

"He pressed me to study Dr. Clarke, and to read his sermons. I asked him why he pressed Dr. Clarke, an Arian? Because, said he, he is fullest on the *propitiatory sacrifice*."—BOSWELL'S Life of Dr. Johnson, vol. iv. p. 412, 427.

Passing through a life thus honourably occupied in the general pursuits of his profession, and in the confidence and friendship of many of the first characters of the age for rank or literary attainments, the doctor reached his 73rd year, and finding those infirmities generally attached to that time of life increase upon him, he gave up a good deal of the bustle of business, as well as his half-pay, on being appointed by his old friend and patron, the duke of Richmond, physician-general to the royal regiment of artillery and corps of engineers, in March, 1794. This was a situation exactly suited to his age and inclinations, since he employed his time in occasional trips to Woolwich, and in visits to his friends and patients. In this last list he never forgot either the poor or those few remaining friends whom he early attended as a medical man gratuitously. Scarcely any distance, or any other inconvenience, could repress this benevolent custom; and when he heard by accident that any of this latter description of his friends were ill, and had through delicacy abstained from sending for him, he used to say, somewhat peevishly, "Why am I treated thus? Why was I not sent for?"

Though debilitated beyond his years, particularly for a man of his constant exercise and abstemious and regular manner of living, he kept up his acquaintance and friendships to the last; and in a limited degree partook of the pleasantries and convivialities of the table. The friends who knew his habits, sometimes

indulged him with a nap in his arm-chair after dinner, which greatly refreshed him; he would then turn to the company, and bear his full share in the conversation, either by agreeable anecdotes or judicious observations, entirely free from the acerbity and severity of old age.

In the beginning of December, 1797, he set out on a visit to Mrs. Burke, at Beaconsfield, the long-frequented seat of friendship and hospitality, where the master-spirit of the age in which he lived, as well as the master of that mansion, had so often adorned, enlivened, and improved the convivial hour. On proposing this visit, while under so infirm a state as he was then in, it was suggested by a friend, whether a distant journey, or the lying out of his own bed, with other little circumstances, might not fatigue him too much: he instantly caught the force of this suggestion, and with his usual placidity replied, "My good friends, I perfectly understand your hint, and am thankful to you for it; but where is the difference whether I die at a friend's house, at an inn, or in a post-chaise? I hope I am every way prepared for such an event, and perhaps it would be as well to elude the expectation of it." He therefore began his journey the next day, and arrived at Beaconsfield the same evening, where he was cordially received by the amiable mistress of the mansion, as well as by Doctors Lawrence and King, who happened to be there on a visit. He remained at Beaconsfield until the 11th of December; but recollecting

that his younger nephew, Dr. Young, was to return from Cambridge to London the next day, he instantly set out for his house in town, where he partook of his last dinner with his nearest relations and friends. About nine o'clock he desired to go to bed, but going up stairs fatigued him so much, that he was obliged to sit in his chair for some time before he felt himself sufficiently at ease to be undressed. In a little time, however, he recovered himself; and as they were unbuttoning his waistcoat, he said to his elder nephew, Mr. Robert Beeby, "What an idle piece of ceremony this buttoning and unbuttoning is to me now." When he got into bed, he seemed perfectly composed, but in about five minutes afterward he quietly expired.

He was interred, on the 18th of December, in the church-yard of St. Clement Danes, in a private manner, according to his request. His fortune, amounting to nearly thirty thousand pounds, after a few legacies to friends and relations, was divided between his nephew, Robert Beeby, esq., who possessed all his landed property, and Dr. Thomas Young, his grand nephew, to whom he bequeathed about £8,000 and his valuable library.

It has been already observed, that Dr. Brocklesby possessed a generous and benevolent heart. His philanthropy was called forth on a distressing occasion in the year 1791, in which year, on the 4th of July, upwards of eighty houses were destroyed by fire at Minehead. On hearing of this severe calamity befall-

ing the place of his nativity, the doctor humanely commissioned his nephew, Mr. Robert Davis, to supply the houseless poor with necessaries at his expense; and in concert with another nephew, Mr. William Davis, then residing in London, (but since at Minehead and now at Taunton) Dr. Brocklesby opened a subscription for the relief of the distressed inhabitants with a donation of £50. Several bankers in London, and in the country, offering their aid on this melancholy occasion in receiving subscriptions, upwards of £4000 were collected from a benevolent and sympathising public, the greater part of which was raised in London. We lament, however, to add that few of the houses, none indeed for the poor, were ever re-built. The doctor's two nephews took upon them the correspondence with the bankers and others, and with a committee, the entire management of the charity.

The preceding facts may be sufficient to illustrate Dr. Brocklesby's character; his fame as a writer must rest on his published works, of which the following, it is believed, is a correct list:—

1. "Dissertatio Inaug. de Saliva Sana et Morbosa, Lug. Bat., 1745," quarto.
2. "An Essay concerning the Mortality of the Horned Cattle, 1746," octavo.
3. "Eulogium Medicum, sive Oratio Anniversaria Harveiana habita in Theatris Collegii Regalis Medicorum Londinensium, die xxij. Octobris, 1760," quarto.
4. "Œconomical and Medical Observations from

1738 to 1763, tending to the Improvement of Medical Hospitals, 1764," octavo.

5. "An Account of the Poisonous Root lately found mixed with the Gentian," *Philosoph. Trans.* No. 486.

6. "Case of a Lady labouring under a Diabetes," *Med. Observations*, No. III.

7. "Experiments relative to the Analysis and Virtues of Seltzer Water," *ibid.* Vol. IV.

8. "Case of an Encysted Tumour in the Orbit of the Eye, cured by Messrs. Bromfield and Ingram," *ib.*

9. "A Dissertation on the Music of the Ancients." The date of the last article does not occur, but it is believed that it was amongst his early literary amusements. When Dr. Young was at Leyden, one of the professors of that university, understanding that he was a grand nephew of Dr. Brocklesby's, shewed him a translation of this dissertation, in the German language.

There is, in the *European Magazine*, for 1788, an engraved portrait of Dr. Brocklesby, a half-length, sitting, by Ridley, from an original painting by Copley, who also introduced the doctor into the groupe of the death of Lord Chatham, in the House of Lords.

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